

## Chess Trivia for 2023 II

### By Bill Wall

In 1775, a group of chess players formed a chess club at Parsloe's Coffee-House in London with the primary aim of raising funds to bring French master Francois-Andre Danican Philidor (1726-1795) to London. The chess club at Parsloe's was the first properly organized chess club in England. The club endured about 50 years and was the headquarters of London chess. (sources: *British Chess Magazine*, Oct 1907, p. 446, and *New York Evening News*, Aug 21, 1977)

In 1803, the oldest Berlin Chess Club was founded. It was the oldest chess club in Germany. It was an exclusive club. One of its many rules was that military men were excluded. Young players found themselves shut out of the club. The club folded in 1850. (source: *British Chess Magazine*, Feb 1886, p. 41)

In early 1831, a group of distinctive 12th century chess pieces were discovered at Uig Bay on the island of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland. They were discovered by a peasant of the island. When found, the hoard contained 78 chess pieces (originally 67 pieces). Most of the pieces are exhibited by the British Museum in London, and other pieces are at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh. Almost all of the pieces are carved from walrus ivory, with a few made from whale teeth. (source: *American Chess Magazine*, June 1872, pp.13-14)

In 1834, Jacques Francois Mouret (1780-1837), former operator of the Turk automaton and a French chess master, sold the secret to a magazine (*Le Magasin Pittoresque*). It was the first authentic revelation of the Turk. The article was called "An attempt to analyze the automaton chess-player of M. Kempelen." Mouret became chess tutor of Louis Philippe I, king of France from 1830 to 1848.

On January 4, 1835, the first column to establish itself was that of George Walker (1803-1879) in *Bell's Life in London* It continued for 38 years, until 1873. *Bell's Life in London* was a weekly sporting paper published from 1822 to 1866.

In 1836, the world's first periodical devoted to chess, *Le Palamede*, was founded and published in Paris by Louis-Charles Mahle de la Bourdonnais (1795-1840) and Joseph Mery. It ceased publication in 1839, but was revived in December 1841 by

Pierre Charles Fournier de Saint-Amant (1800-1872). It then continued until the end of 1847. The magazine was named after Palamedes, the inventor of dice in Greek mythology. A total of 11 volumes were published.

In 1837, the first comprehensive survey of openings was published by Aaron Alexandre (1773-1850) in Paris. He tried to make a complete survey of the chess openings, publishing his findings as the *Encyclopedie des echecs* (Encyclopedia of Chess). Alexandre introduced the standard notation and the castling symbols O-O and O-O-O. Alexandre was one of the operators of the Turk automaton. For some time he was a rabbi, and afterward teacher of German at Paris, where he established a boarding school.

In February 1838, two correspondence games were played between the New York City Chess Clubs and Washington DC Chess Clubs. In New York, the games were played at Basford's club room. New York won the first game and the second game was a draw. (sources: *New York Evening Post*, Feb 21, 1838 and *Bell's Life in London*, July 12, 1840)

In 1839, James Thompson (1804-1870) formed the New York Chess Club, along with Colonel Charles Dillingham Mead (1812-1876). The club held their meetings at the Carlton House. Thompson became a wealthy merchant and one of the strongest chess players in New York.

In 1841, English inventor William Henry Fox Talbot (1800-1877) photographed two chess players playing chess. This may be the first instance of chess being in a photograph. He took 12 or more pictures of chess players. One photograph, titled *Chess Players*, was published in Nicolaas Henneman's 1847 collection called *Talbotypes*. One of the chess players at the chess table is Antoine Claudet, a known friend of Talbot. His opponent is unknown.

In 1843, the first documented American chess tournament was held, a local event in New York.

In 1844, a Ladies' Chess Club was formed in Liverpool, perhaps the earliest women's chess club.

In April 1844, Samuel Morse (1791-1872), a chess player, wrote a letter to lawyer and politician Louis McLane (1786-1857) that one game of chess had been played via telegraph. This was before a line had even been strung between Washington, DC and Baltimore, a distance of 39 miles.

On November 23-25, 1844, the first known public telegraph match was played between the selected chess players of Baltimore and Washington, DC. The two cities were the first to be linked by an American telegraph set up by Samuel Morse. Seven games were played by telegraph. The games were played to test the accuracy of the telegraph as well as for the players own amusement. A numerical notation was used (the White pieces were on numbers 57 through 64). The 686 moves which made up the match were transmitted without a single mistake or interruption. The first chess game was played by Mr. Greene in Baltimore against Dr. Jones in Washington. Mr. Greene won. Washington won the match. Later, Morse thought playing chess was too frivolous a use of the telegraph, and no longer allowed the exchange over the wires on his telegraph.

In November 1845, the first 2-dimensional pocket chess set was devised by Dr. Peter Mark Roget (1779-1869), the creator of *Roget's Thesaurus*. He called it the Economic Chess-Board and it was marketed by De La Rue in April 1846.

On July 1, 1846, the first German magazine, *Schachzeitung der Berliner Schachgesellschaft*, was published by Dr. Ludwig Bledow (1795-1846). It was renamed Deutsche Schachzeitung in 1872. When it ceased publication in December 1988, it was the oldest existing chess magazine in the world. It was published regularly since its founding in 1846 except for a 5-year break (1945-1949) after World War II. In January 1989 the magazine merged in the Deutsche-Schachblatter. In 1997 it merged again in the Berlin magazine Schach.

In 1848, the first open chess tournament was held at Simpson's Grand Divan Tavern, located at 100 Strand in London. (source: Bird, *Chess History and Reminiscences*, 1893)

In 1854, the first problem-solving chess contest, held in London, was won by Walter Grimshaw (1832-1890) of Whitby, England. Grimshaw was a pawnbroker at York, and later became partial ownership of steamboats, making him a wealthy man. At age 58, he became despondent and committed suicide. He was found

on the morning of Dec 27, 1890 in his bed with his throat cut. (sources: *The International Chess Magazine*, Feb 1891, p. 35, and *British Chess Magazine*, Feb 1891, pp. 68-70)

On July 5, 1854, the Turk automaton was destroyed by fire at the Chinese Museum in Philadelphia.

In 1855, Miron James Hazeltine (1824-1907) wrote the first chess column in the U.S. It appeared in the New York *Saturday Courier*. In August 1856, he started another chess column in the *New York Clipper*. He never missed a single issue in the 51 years that his column appeared (1856-1907). He was the first writer to leave out the word "to" in games scores, changing, for example, "P to K4" into "P-K4." Hazeltine practices law for 4 years, and then became principal of a select classical school in New York City. In 1860, he was commissioned to re-edit the 1845 Stanley vs. Rousseau match, but the closing of the Southern mails by the Government, prevented its completion. (sources: New York *Saturday Courier*, Feb 3, 1855, and *American Chess Magazine*, June 1867, p. 7)

In 1855, the New-York Chess Club was formed by Frederick Perrin (1815-1889) at No. 158 East Tenth-street. It held its first tournament from March 1855 to May 1855, won by James Thompson. (source: *New York Times*, Jan 12, 1855)

In October 1855, the Brooklyn Chess Club was established at Montague Hall in Brooklyn. Its first president was Thomas Nichols. In 1856, D. S. Daniels was the president of the Brooklyn Chess Club. In 1858, the Brooklyn Chess Club at 280 Fulton Street in Brooklyn, New York as founded. In 1859, the Brooklyn Chess Club was the largest chess club in the United States, with 350 members. It was later headquartered in Bassford's Billiard Rooms at the corner of Court and Ramsen streets. (source: *New York Times*, March 12, 1859)

On March 28, 1856, the first chess game by telegraph between Liverpool and Manchester (30 miles apart) was played. After 8 hours of play and 28 moves played, the clubs agreed to a draw. (sources: *Manchester Guardian*, Mar 29, 1856 and *London Times*, March 31, 1856)

In January 1857, lawyer Hardman Phillips Montgomery (1834-1870) of Philadelphia and librarian Daniel Willard Fiske (1831-1904) proposed a National

Chess Congress. It was advertised in the March issue of *The Chess Monthly*. The first proposal was to have the tournament in Philadelphia (with just Philadelphia and New York chess players participating), but they were unable to fund it, so New York was chosen for the event. On March 26, 1857, a committee of 5 men was formed to organize the event. Both Montgomery and Fiske played in the National Chess Congress (later named the 1<sup>st</sup> American Chess Congress), which was held from Oct 6, 1857 to Nov 10, 1857 (won by Paul Morphy). (sources: *The New York Times*, Oct 9, 1857 and Fiske, *The Book of the First American Chess Congress*, 1859, pp. 51-53)

On Oct 6, 1857, the American Chess Association (ACA) was formed. It was the first national sports organization formed in the United States. It was formed at the First American Chess Congress in New York. Colonel Charles Dillingham Mead (1815-1876) was its first president. The ACA published a monthly chess magazine, the *American Chess Monthly*, which lasted until 1860. In 1874, the ACA transformed into the National Chess Association (NCA).

On February 18, 1858, Louis Paulsen (1833-1891) played 7 opponents blindfolded in Dubuque, Iowa, winning all 7 games. At the close of the games, Paulsen told the position of every piece on all 7 boards. At the time, Paulsen was a potato farmer in Dubuque and operated a tobacco store, beginning in 1854. In Dubuque, he began his blindfold exhibitions. He was later able to play 12 games blindfolded simultaneously. (sources: *Davenport Daily Gazette*, Feb 25, 1858 and Renette, Louis Paulsen: *A Chess Biography with 719 games*, 2019)

In January 1859, the first Russian magazine, *Shakhmatny Listok* (Chess Sheet), was published in St. Petersburg. It was published every month for 5 years. It was edited by Victor Mikhailov (1828-1883). The first 37 numbers were issued as a supplement to the scientific journal *Russkoe Slovo* (Russian Word). From 1862 to 1863, it appeared as an independent publication, after *Russkoe Slovo* had closed down. Alexander Petrov (1794-1867) and Carl Jaenisch (1813-1872) contributed chess articles, and Sergey Urusov's (1827-1897) *Guide to the Study of Chess* was serialized in the magazine from 1859 to 1861. The magazine was funded by the wealthy G. Kushelev-Bezborodko, but was discontinued at the end of 1863 due to a lack of subscribers.

In 1859, the Amherst College chess team was the winner of the first intercollegiate chess match. The defeated William College (located in Williamstown, MA). The event was actually an intercollegiate base ball and intercollegiate chess match simultaneously as part of a single event. The two teams met on a neutral site in Pittsfield, Massachusetts to engage in a “trial of the mind as well as the muscle.” Amherst won at both sports, and their teams were heralded as “Athletic and Academic Champions. (source: *Amherst Express Extra*, July 3, 1859, p. 1)

In 1860, Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) played chess while living in Springfield, Illinois. It was noted that he played a fair game of chess and checkers. He did play an occasional chess game at the White House. One of his chess sets is displayed in the Smithsonian. He also bought a chess set for his son, Tad, which is on display at the National Museum of American History. (sources: *The New York Times*, Nov 15, 1860; *Janesville Daily Gazette*, Nov 20, 1860; *American Chess Magazine*, Vol 2, 1898; Browne, *The Every-day Life of Abraham Lincoln*, 1913; Burlingame, *Abraham Lincoln: A Life*, 2013; Kaplan, *Lincoln: The Biography of a Writer*, 2009; Miller, *Lincoln and His World*, 2013; Sandburg, *Abraham Lincoln, the War Years*, 1939; Whipple, *The Story-life of Lincoln*, 1908)

In 1861, the American Watch Company in Waltham, Massachusetts began to advertise their gold and silver watches, using a letter from Paul Morphy (1837-1884) as an endorsement. The price of the watch was \$200. The first watch was given to Paul Morphy in May, 1859, at a Testimonial Dinner in New York. (sources: *Steuben Republican* (Angola, Indiana), March 30, 1861; *Steuben Republican*, Oct 26, 1861; and *Chess Monthly*, April 1859)

On July 5, 1862, the first international telegraph chess game was played between Hugh Alexander Kennedy (1809-1878) in England and Serafino Dubois (1817-1899) in Italy. Dubois won in 18 moves. In June 1862, a telegraph match was announced to take place between London and Paris as part of the British Chess Association meeting in London. (source: *Illustrated London News*, Jun 21, 1862, p. 644)

In November, 1866, the first British Chess Championship (BCA Challenge Cup) was held in London and won by Cecil Valentine de Vere (1846-1875), age 20. He won 28 guineas. It was sponsored by the British Chess Association as part of an event

at the 1866 London Congress. De Vere was the youngest British chess champion until 1984, when Nigel Short won it at the age of 19. (source: *American Chess Magazine*, April 1875, pp. 3-5)

On June 3, 1867, Captain George Henry Mackenzie (1837-1891) won the 2<sup>nd</sup> US championship match against Gustavus Reichhelm (1839-1905) in Philadelphia (+7-0=2). The match was played at the Philadelphia Atheneum. Mackenzie won 7-0. There were two draws, but draws did not count. There was no purse of prize fund. Mackenzie remained U.S. champion and the strongest chess player in America for the next 20 years. (sources: *New York Tribune*, June 5, 1867 and *Philadelphia Evening Bulletin*, June 7, 1867)

In 1867, Russian chess master Ilya Stepanovich Shumov (1819-1881) published the first book in the world (*Recueil de Problèmes Scaccographiques Positions Curieuses et Autres*) about chess compositions and chess problems. It was published in S. Petersburg. At the time, he was considered the best chess player in Russia. (source: *British Chess Magazine*, January 1882, p. 16)

In April 1869, British chess master Rev. Charles Edward Ranken (1828-1905), along with Lord Randolph Churchill (Winston Churchill's father) founded the Oxford University Chess Club. Ranken became its first president. In 1872, he won the Counties Chess Association tournament. From 1877 to 1880, he was the editor of the *Chess Player's Chronicle*. In 1889, he was the co-author, with E. Freeborough, of *Chess Openings, Ancient and Modern*, one of the first important opening treatises in the English language. He died at his home in Malvern, England, on April 12, 1905. (source: *Lasker's Chess Magazine*, May 1905, pp. 27-28)

On August 4, 1870, Adolf Anderssen (1818-1879) won at Baden-Baden (near the French border), ahead of Wilhelm Steinitz (1836-1900) and Joseph Henry Blackburne (1841-1924). This was the first strong international tournament, the first international tournament in Germany, and the first to be interrupted by a war (Franco-Prussian war). Anderssen won 3,000 francs, Steinitz won 600 francs, and Blackburne and Neumann on 200 francs each. Chess clocks were used for the first time. 20 moves had to be made in one hour. The players had a choice of using a chess clock or a sandglass. It was also the first time that draws counted for ½ point (Anderssen had 2 draws). On July 19, 1870, the day after the

tournament began the Franco-Prussian War broke out. The southern German states took the side of Prussia. The war came within 12 miles of Baden-Baden, close enough for artillery to be heard. Adolf Stern, age 20, was a Bavarian reservist and left the tournament after 4 rounds to fight in the war. (sources: *New York Times*, Sep 2, 1870 and *Tartajubow on Chess*, May 19, 2017).

On Dec 4, 1871, the 2nd American Chess Congress was started at the Kennard House in Cleveland. One of the rules was that all games were property of the Chess Congress. On Dec 15, 1871, the 2nd American Chess Congress was won by George Mackenzie. He won \$100 1st prize (over \$1,500 today). There were only 9 players. William Houghton took last place, losing his first 10 games and forfeiting the rest for 16 lost games. Drawn games were replayed. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> American Chess Congress, the American Chess Association was formed. Preston Ware of Boston was elected President; John G. White of Cleveland was elected Secretary; J.S. Turner of New York was elected Treasurer. (sources: *New York Times*, Dec 16, 1871. the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, Dec 16, 1871, p. 3 and *Book of the Second Chess Congress*)

In 1872, the Canadian Chess Association was founded. It is the oldest (first) nation chess association. In 1932, it was replaced by the Canadian Chess Federation (CCF). In 1945, it was changed to the Chess Federation of Canada (CFC).

On July 7, 1874, the 3rd American Chess Congress began in Chicago. There were only 8 players. The players had to pay a \$20 entry fee (over \$250 today). For the first time in an organized U.S. chess tournament, draws were not required to be replayed. On July 16, 1874, George Mackenzie took 1<sup>st</sup> at the 3<sup>rd</sup> American Chess Congress and won \$225. (source: Hannibal, *The Third American Chess Congress*, 1876)

In February-March, 1876 Wilhelm Steinitz played Joseph Blackburne at the West End Chess Club in London and made a clean score of 7 wins, no losses or draws. This was the first time spectators were charged and entrance fee (half a guinea) to see a chess match. Steinitz won 120 British pounds. After this chess match, Steinitz did not play any serious chess for 6 years. (source: *London Daily News*, Mar 3, 1876)



In August 1876, the 4<sup>th</sup> American Chess Congress was held in Philadelphia and won by James Mason (1849-1905). There were 9 players. Mason won \$300. The event was of the American Centennial celebration.

On March 2, 1878 Scottish chess master John Cochrane (1798-1878) died. He was a Scottish barrister and became a leading London player when he lived there. In 1824, he played for the London team in the London vs. Edinburgh correspondence match. He recommended the opening 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4, now known as the Scotch Opening. The game was looking favorably for White, but Cochrane left for India mid-game. After he left, White's game fell apart and Black won. So the Scots beat the Scotch Gambit the first time it was recorded. Cochrane went to India in 1824 and remained there until his retirement in 1869, but he took leave from 1841 to 1843 and returned to London. He was the strongest player in Britain and beat everyone except Howard Staunton. (sources: *American Chess Journal*, April 1878, pp. 30-32 and Upham, "Remembering John Cochrane," *British Chess News*, Mar 2, 2020)

On Jan 6, 1880, the 5th American Chess Congress started at the Manhattan Chess Club in New York. It had 10 players. During the 5<sup>th</sup> American Chess Congress, the Chess Association of the United States was formed. The temporary chairman of the association was William T. Minor (1815-1889) the former governor of Connecticut. The elected officers included Col John R. Fellows as President, Henry C Allen as Secretary, and Commander J. D. Beuglass as Treasurer. On Jan 26, 1880, George Mackenzie took 1<sup>st</sup> place on tiebreaks (2 wins) over James Grundy and won \$500. The 5th American Chess Congress was the first to have a tie and playoff for an American title. The reputation of the Congress was shattered by an allegation of cheating between Grundy and Preston Ware. (source: *New York Times*, Jan 29, 1880)

In November 1883, George Washington Vanderbilt II (1862-1924) was given the chess table and chessmen that formerly belonged to Napoleon Bonaparte. The gift came from American financier and railroad tycoon James McHenry (1817-1891), who previously owned it in London. When Napoleon died, the physicians, when making their post-mortem examination, removed his heart and put it in one of the drawers of the chess table. The table still had the deep stains of blood on the inside of the drawer. Vanderbilt offered \$10,000 for the table, but it was refused and McHenry gave it as a birthday gift to George since he had no use for

the table. Napoleon's chess set is on display in the library of the Biltmore House in Asheville, NC, built in 1895. (source: *The Wilmington Daily Review*, May 23, 1884)

On January 18, 1884, English chess player and journalist John Wisker (1846-1884) died in Melbourne, Australia of tuberculosis. By 1870, he was the second-best English-born chess player, behind only Joseph Blackburne (1841-1924). In 1866, he was a reporter for the London *Cental Press*. In 1870 and 1872, he won the British Chess Championship (British Chess Association Cup). After this second victory, the British chess championship was not resumed until 1904. From 1872 to 1876, he was Secretary of the British Chess Association and co-editor of the *Chess Player's Chronicle*. In 1876 he moved to Australia to regain his health after contracting tuberculosis. He was the chess editor of the *Australasian* up until he died. (source: *British Chess Magazine*, April 1884, pp. 134-135).

On July 24, 1884, the British Chess Association was inaugurated, with one president and three vice presidents.. The President was Earl Dartrey (Richard Dawson) from 1884 to 1885. The Vice Presidents were Lord Randolph Churchill (1849-1895), Sir Robert Peel (1822-1895), the eldest son of the prime minister, Robert Peel, and English writer John Ruskin (1819-1900). In 1885, Lord Alfred Tennyson (1809-1892) became President of the BCA. (sources: *Illustrated London News*, Aug 2, 1884, p. 114,; *Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*, Jan 17, 1885, p. 446,; *The London Times*, June 23, 1885; and *British Chess Magazine*, 1974, p. 174)

In June 1885, the first Australian chess championship (a match with George Gossip) was held in Melbourne. The match was won by Frederick Karl Esling (1860-1955), a civil engineer and worked on the Melbourne railway system.

In September 1885, President Grover Cleveland (1837-1908) visited the Eden Musée where the automaton Ajeeb was on display in New York. Vice President Thomas Hendricks (1819-1885) played Ajeeb and lost (a smothered mate). The expense of playing Ajeeb was 20 cents to enter the musée, 10 cents for admission to the room where it sat, and 10 cents for every game. That was 70 cents in all. A game of checkers was 5 cents. Over the years, Harry Houdini, Theodore Roosevelt, and O. Henry played Ajeeb. (sources: *The International Chess Magazine*, Sep 1885 and *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, Dec 20, 1885)

On January 11, 1886 the first game for the official world chess championship began in the Dancing Academy Hall (Cartier's Hall) on No. 50 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue in New York. The match was between William Steinitz (1836-1900) and Johannes Zukertort (1842-1888). Steinitz wanted the U.S. flag to be placed next to him during the match, even though he still was an Austrian citizen (he became an American citizen almost three years later). Less than 40 people were present (including two women) at the start of this historical match, despite Steinitz's daughter, Flora Steinitz (1867-1888), selling programs and photographs for 50 cents to earn a few extra dollars for the family. Steinitz couldn't even afford a winter coat for her daughter. The time control was 30 moves in 2 hours, with a 2 hour dinner break, then 15 moves an hour. A demonstration chess board was first used in this world championship match, run by George Mackenzie. Steinitz won the match with 10 wins and 5 draws. Zukertort scored 5 wins. (sources: *New York Sun*, Jan 12, 1886, p. 3 and *New-York Daily Tribune*, Jan 12, 1886, p. 5)

On July 24, 1886, Paul Morphy's trophies and gifts were sold at public auction at the Arcade Exchange, New Orleans. The crown of silver, presented to Morphy in 1859 by the Union Chess Club of New York was sold to Mr. C. Samory, a retired merchant, for \$250. He also bought the solid silver services, consisting of a pitcher, 4 goblets, and a large salver for \$650. The set of solid gold and silver chessmen with the pearl-and-ebony-inlaid board was sold to Walter Denegre, acting for the Manhattan Chess Club, for \$1,550. The pitcher and 4 goblets were later in the hands of Judge Edward Bermudez, Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court. In 1986, the pitcher and goblets were purchased by the U.S. Chess Trust, and is now on display at the World Chess Hall of Fame. (sources: *American Chess Review*, Sep 1886, p. 34 and *British Chess Magazine*, 1886)

In August 1887, a chess match in Boston was being played by Major James Moore Hanham (1840-1923) of New York and Franklin Knowles Young (1857-1931) of Boston. Young was supposed to seal the adjourned move, but made his move instead. Hanham then claimed a draw on the ground that the rules had been violated. The arbiters (including William Steinitz) decided that Young had forfeited his game because of this neglect, but would modify the penalty to a draw. Young then withdrew from the match and resigned his membership in the Boston Chess Club. (source: *New York Times*, Aug 15, 1887)

In 1888, Edith (Winter-Wood) Baird (1859-1924) took 3<sup>rd</sup> place in a Sheffield chess-composition tournament. This was the first of over two dozen chess composition prizes that she would win. In her day, she was the most prolific composer problems in the world, composing over 2,000 problems. She was known as the “Queen of Chess.” In 1902, she published *Seven Hundred Chess Problems*. It took her 14 years to complete. In 1907, she published *The Twentieth Century Retractor*.

In September 1888, Jackson Showalter (1859-1935) won the first United States Chess Association (USCA) championship, held in Cincinnati. It was a 6-player double round-robin. He won 8, drew 2, and no losses in the first U. S. Chess Congress, which formed the USCA. Although Showalter became the USCA Champion, it was not accepted as the overall U.S. Chess Championship, which remained without a generally-accepted, systematized procedure.

In 1889, the remote-controlled Mephisto chess player machine went from London after 10 years to the Exposition Universelle world’s fair in Paris from May to October, 1889 (the central attraction was the Eiffel Tower). Mephisto was operated by Jean Taubenhau (1850-1919). Taubenhau was a Polish-born French chess master. He gave chess lessons at the Café de la Régence, where he played every day. After the exposition closed in October, Mephisto was dismantled and its subsequent whereabouts are unknown. (source: *The Chess Player’s Chronicle*, August 1889, p. 34)

On Jan 20, 1889, the second world championship match, Steinitz-Chigorin, began in Havana. On February 24, 1889, Steinitz defeated Chigorin, 10.5 - 6.5. 17 games had been played, but 20 games were scheduled. For games 18-20, Steinitz and Chigorin each took one of the organizers as his partner. The result was one win, one loss, and one draw. The prize was \$1,150, the lowest ever for a world championship chess match.

On Dec 9, 1890, the 3<sup>rd</sup> world championship match, William Steinitz vs. Isidor Gunsberg (1854-1930), started in New York. Steinitz defended his title against Isidor Gunsberg of England (born in Hungary). Their match was held at the Manhattan Chess Club, 31 West 27<sup>th</sup> Street in New York. Steinitz won with 6 wins, 9 draws, and 4 losses. Steinitz received 2/3 of the total prize money (\$3,000), and Gunsberg received 1/3. Gunsberg also received \$150 traveling expenses from the

Manhattan Chess Club. This was the first time a loser of a match took a share of the purse. In game 6, Gunsberg exceeded the time limit and should have lost, but Steinitz refused to claim a win. In game 18, Steinitz did not show up. The telegram he had sent to excuse himself had been delayed. Gunsberg could have claimed the game, but he did not. When the game was played, Gunsberg lost. (source: *New York Sun*, Jan 20, 1891)

In May 1891, the old Spanish house on Royal Street, New Orleans, in which Paul Morphy (1837-1884) lived and died was, sold at auction for \$6,000. It was the oldest house on the street, over 120 years old. Morphy's father, Alonzo, purchased it for \$90,000, but the house was now uninhabited and was a crumbling ruin. The house was sold at public auction to J. B. Esnard. Morphy's brothers and sisters sold the mansion and today it is Brennan's Restaurant located at 417 Royal Street.. (sources: *New York Times*, May 3, 1891 and *Tartajubow on Chess*, June 13, 2013)

In February 1893, Emanuel Lasker sent to the *New York Sun* the following dispatch from New Orleans: "I have accepted the invitation of the Tulane University of this city to give a series of 12 lectures on mathematics, namely 'the theory of the linear differential equations.' Besides a number of advanced students, several professors and members of the philosophical society will be among the hearers. The course will extend over four weeks." He told a *Sun* reporter that he intended to give up chess as a profession in order to return to his old love, mathematics. He also lectured on chess at Tulane. (sources: *The Chess World*, Feb 1893, pp. 17-18, and *New Orleans Time Picayune*, March 4, 1893)

On Oct 14, 1893, 24-year old Emanuel Lasker (1866-1941) won the 1893 Impromptu International Chess Tournament, held jointly at the Manhattan Chess Club and the Brooklyn Chess Club, with 13 straight wins and no losses and no draws. He won 4.5 points ahead of 2<sup>nd</sup> place Adolf Albin (1848-1920). (source: *New York Times*, Oct 18, 1893)

In 1894, chess master Albert Beauregard Hodges (1861-1944) lost a match to Jackson Whipps Showalter, but then won a rematch in New York to become the U.S. Chess Champion. He then announced that his ambitions in chess had been fulfilled, and that he was retiring to pursue a career in business. In 1916-1918, he made several appearances in silent movie films. He supposedly appeared in at least four films - *War Brides* (1916), *The Auction Block* (1917), *Empty Pockets*

(1918), and *False Faces* (1918). (source: *American Chess Bulletin*, Feb 1918, p. 47, and Winter, Chess Notes, #2221, *New In Chess* 1998, No, 7, p. 90)

In December 1894, it was reported that Nellie Love Showalter (1870-1946) of New York City and Harriet Worrall (1836-1928) of Brooklyn, were playing a match for the women's championship of the world (at least the United States). The match was played in New York City and Brooklyn. During the match, no one was admitted to the playing room, except the referee. Nellie Showalter won 3, lost 1, and drew one to beat Harriet Worrall. The match ended when Showalter got sick. (source: *Wichita Daily Eagle*, Dec 16, 1894 and *Mansfield Daily Shield*, Dec 21, 1894)

On March 9, 1895, the Manhattan Chess Club played the British Chess Club of London by cable. Only about 22 moves were played in each of the 10 games after 9 hours. One game was agreed drawn. All the other games were adjudicated as drawn by the new world chess champion, Emanuel Lasker. (source: *New York Times*, March 10, 1895)

From October 21, 1895 to Dec 27, 1895, Jackson Whipps Showalter (1859-1935) and Samuel Lipschuetz (1863-1905) played a match for the U.S. Chess Championship. The match was played at the Manhattan Chess Club. Showalter won with 7 wins, 4 losses and 3 draws. He won the stakes of \$1,500 besides a purse of \$200. He also won the brilliancy prize for one of his games. Lipschuetz returned to New York from California in early 1895 to play this match. He claimed he had never relinquished the title of US champion as many thought. This was their third match to settle the claim, and this time Showalter won. (source: *British Chess Magazine*, Feb 1896, p.46)

On June 15, 1895, the Swiss system pairing system was introduced by Dr. Julius Mueller (1857-1917) at the 5th Swiss Chess Championship in Zurich (won by Max Pestalozzi). Dr Mueller was a meteorologist and teacher in Brugg, Switzerland. In 1889, he was a founding member of the Swiss Chess Federation. A Swiss-system tournament is a non-eliminating tournament format that features a fixed number of rounds of competition. The first national event in the U.S. to use the Swiss system was in Corpus Christ, Texas in 1945. The first use of the Swiss system in a Chess Olympiad was in Haifa in 1976. The Swiss system is now used in bridge, go,

badminton, croquet, curling, and Scrabble. (source: Schulz, "125 years Swiss System," *ChessBase*, June 17, 2020)

In 1895, Isaac Leopold Rice (1850-1915) discovered a variation of the Kieseritzky gambit of the King's Gambit, which then became known as the Rice Gambit - 1. e4 e5 2. f4 exf4 3. Nf3 g5 4. h4 g4 5. Ne5 Nf6 6. Bc4 d5 7. exd5 Bd6 8. O-O (instead of the normal 8. d4). It was not a very good gambit, but he sponsored tournaments where this opening became the starting point of each game. In 1904, he formed the Rice Gambit Association which published a detailed analysis of this gambit. He became president of the Manhattan Chess Club, and presented for chess competition several trophies. This included one that was competed for annually by cable by the universities in England vs. the universities in the U.S. He was the world's leading patron in chess during his lifetime. As a business man, in 1899 he acquired the Holland Torpedo Boat Company, which was renamed the Electric Boat Company. He produced submarines for the U.S. and British navies. The company is now known as the General Dynamics Electric Boat. He was a teacher of music and languages, and became a lawyer. His brother was president of the Distillers Company of America. (sources: *Checkmate*, Apr 1904, p. 126; *American Chess Bulletin*, 1915, pp. 257-303; and Winter, "Professor Isaac Rice and the Rice Gambit," *www.chesshistory.com*, 2006)

On March 13, 1896, the first Anglo-American Cable Chess Match between Great Britain and the United States began. It was organized by the Brooklyn Chess Club, and would be the first Anglo-American chess match. The referee was Baron Albert von Rothschild (1844-1911). The players were required to be "native born." The first team match had 8 players per side. The moves were transmitted by telegraph over a distance of 3,483 miles. Subsequent matches had 10 players per side. Sir George Newnes (1851-1910) was president of the British Chess Club and he provided a \$800 silver cup that would go to the winning team.

Newnes was an editor and publisher of magazines in Britain. He was the first to publish the Sherlock Holmes mystery series, written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The US team won, scoring 4.5 to 3.5. USA won the first match, 4.5 to 3.5. The Newnes trophy was given annually from 1896 to 1903 (source: *New York Times*, Mar 15, 1896)

On May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1897, a cable match was arranged between five members of the U.S. House of Representatives (3 Democrats, 1 Republican, and 1

Populist) in Washington, DC, and five members of the British House of Commons in London. The match was called The Parliamentary Cable match. Prior to the match House Members competed against each other to select the best chess players. The top congressional players trained at the Metropolitan Club of Washington. The match ended in a draw, 2.5 to 2.5. This match was arranged by Richmond Pearson (1852-1923), U.S. Representative of North Carolina and Sir John Heaton (1848-1914), a British Conservative Member of Parliament. In this match, a record of time in cable matches was established. Twenty moves were cabled in 21.5 minutes, one move going to and from Washington in 14 seconds. The signals were carried by the Anglo American Telegraph Company and the Western Union Telegraph Company. (sources: *American Chess Magazine*, June 1897, pp. 3-4; *Chess Maniac*, Dec 10, 2013; and *Tartajubow on Chess*, Dec 21, 2017)

On Jan 21, 1898, Charles Alexander Gilberg (1835-1898) died. In 1861, he started composing chess problems, publishing over 300 problems. In 1868, he authored *America Chess Nuts*. In 1880, he authored *The Fifth American Chess Congress*. In 1890, he authored *Crumbs from the Chess-board*. From 1868 to 1870, and from 1892 to 1894, he was President of the Brooklyn Chess Club. In his day, he had the second largest chess library in American, 2,800 volumes (only exceeded by George Allen of Philadelphia). (source: *Brentano's Chess Monthly*, Jan 1882, pp. 438-444)

In June-July 1898, the Vienna International Chess Congress has held to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Emperor Franz Joseph I of Austria's accession to the throne of Austria-Hungary. The main organizer was Baron Albert Freiherr von Rothschild (1844-1911) who was also president of the Vienna Chess Club. There were 20 players (19 players after Adolf Schwarz withdrew after playing 8 games) and 28 rounds. The games were played at the Vienna Chess Club. Siegbert Tarrasch and Harry Pillsbury tied for 1<sup>st</sup> with 27.5 out of 36 points. Tarrasch won the play-off. (source: *American Chess Magazine*, July 1898, pp. 3-6)

In 1899, Frank James Marshall (1877-1944) made his first international appearance in London where he came first in the Minor tournament of London 1899. In 1900, he made his first major tournament debut at Paris, taking 3<sup>rd</sup> place. He defeated World Champion Emanuel Lasker in their individual game.



In early 1900, William (Wilhelm) Steinitz (1836-1900) was sent to the insane pavilion at Bellevue Hospital in New York. He had been madly raving about imaginary enemies whom he believed was annoying him. His wife tried to take care of him, but finally decided to have him sent to a hospital. He had to be strapped in the ambulance. Steinitz complained that he was being interrupted continually by electric shocks from hidden machines. Steinitz imagined he was a human electric dynamo. Steinitz was considered hopelessly insane. His wife and 3 children were left destitute. (source: Meriden *Morning Record*, Feb 10, 1900)

On August 12, 1900, Steinitz died of a heart attack in the Manhattan State Hospital at Ward's Island, New York at the age of 64. For months, he had been confined there, diagnosed as insane. He was committed by his second wife, Elizabeth. In 1897, he began to have the illusion that he could talk on the phone without wire and his secretary often surprised him waiting for a response through the invisible hearing aid. He also used to approach to the window where he spoke and singed, remaining after waiting for an answer. The secretary informed about this to the American consul who suggested that Steinitz should be taken to a sanatorium. In 1900, he thought he could deliver electric charges, with the help of which it would be feasible to move the pieces at will. Claimed to be in electrical communication with God and could give him a pawn ahead and White pieces. His second wife and their two young children survived him, and a fund of \$1,050 was raided to help them. He is buried at the Cemetery of the Evergreens in Brooklyn, New York (Bethel Slope Section, Lot 5893). (sources: *New York Times*, Aug 14, 1900)

In February 1901, in order to stimulate tourism in the seaside resort of Monte Carlo during the winter season, Prince Andrey Dadian (1850-1910) of Mingrelia and Julius Arnous de Riviere (1830-1905) organized a master chess tournament. 14 masters were invited to participate. The start of the tournament was delayed to observe the funeral of Queen Victoria (1819-1901). Draws counted  $\frac{1}{4}$  instead of  $\frac{1}{2}$ . The two players were then required to replay the game with colors reversed. A win was then worth  $\frac{1}{2}$  a point and a draws was worth another  $\frac{1}{4}$  point. Last place finisher, Lucien Didier of France, score only  $\frac{1}{4}$  point. David Janowski won the event and 5,000 francs along with a bronze trophy. (source: *The Field*, Mar 9, 1901, p. 66)

On November 19, 1901, Lady Catherine Jane Carew (1797-1901) died at the age of 104. She was the oldest chess player in the world. She resided in Woodstown,

Waterford, England. She played chess up to 100. (sources: *Chicago Daily Tribune*, May 19, 1901 and *British Chess Magazine*, Dec 1901)

In January 1902, Emanuel Lasker received a PhD in mathematics and philosophy from Erlangen University in Bavaria, Germany. His dissertation, entitled *Über Reihen auf der Convergenzgrenze* ("On Series at Convergence Boundaries") was on geometrical calculus and ideal numbers. His mathematical researches were based upon his studies at the universities of Berlin, Gottingen, and Heidelberg. His advisor was the famous mathematician Dr. David Hilbert (1862-1943). His dissertation was published in *Philosophical Transactions*. After he defended his dissertation, Lasker was given assistant professorship at Owens College (merged with Victoria University of Manchester in 1904) in England, but was unable to secure a longer-term position. In September 1902, Dr. Lasker reluctantly resigned his professorship at Owens College in Manchester, England, where he had been teaching mathematics. He said that the English climate did not agree with him and had trouble with his health. In October 1902, he moved to the United States. Lasker applied to Columbia University for a teaching position, but was refused. He remained in the U.S. until 1907. His only chess tournament during that time was Cambridge Springs in 1904. (sources: *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, Jan 5, 1902 and *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, Oct 13, 1902)

In 1903, Simpson's-in-the Strand closed down after 75 years as a smoking room, and then coffee-house and gathering of London chess players. It was one of London's oldest restaurants. It was frequented regularly by all the greatest chess players of the time. Membership was one guinea a year. In 1903, it was purchased by the Westminster Council and the Savoy Hotel group for 54,000 British pounds. Chess was not encouraged at the site until 1980 when the final of the British national club championship was held there. (source: *Tartajubow on Chess*, May 24, 2012)

In February-March 1903, the third Monte Carlo held an international event. 14 masters participated in the double round-robin event. Russian champion Mikhail Chigorin (1850-1908) showed up to play but was turned away for his criticism of games by President of the Committee, Prince Andria Dadian of Mingrella (1850-1910). Isidor Gunsberg (1854-1930) of England was not invited because he criticized the penalty for drawn games. The event has held at the Monte Carlo casino. When the players complained of the noise to tournament director Jules Arnous de Riviere (1830-1905), he told them they would just have to get used to

it. The event was won by Siegbert Tarrasch, who won 4,500 francs. Colonel Moreau scored zero out of 26 rounds. (source: *American Chess Weekly*, April 1903, pp. 1-7)

On February 28, 1904, chess expert Vladimir Fedorovich Ostrogsky (1877-1917) set a new world record in blindfold chess when he played 23 opponents simultaneously at the Moscow Chess Club. He beat the old record of 22 blindfold games held by Harry Pillsbury in 1902. Ostrogsky won 9, lost 5, and drew 9. Unusually, these 23 boards were played by only 10 players as almost all the opponents played multiple boards. (source: *64 – Shakhmatnoye Obozreniye*, Feb-March 1904)

In July 1904, the first issue of the *American Chess Bulletin* was published. It was the leading American chess magazine from 1904 to 1963. It was edited by Hermann Helms (1870-1963) from 1906 to 1956. Edgar Holladay (1925-2003) was the editor from 1957 to 1963. The first issue was a report of the 1904 Cambridge Springs tournament.

In April 1905, the international matches by cable for the Newnes and Rice Trophies had to be cancelled because the cable broke the day before the matches between the American teams in Brooklyn and the English teams in London. A cable ship had to be fitted out for the lost ends in the deep Atlantic ocean. The cable matches were not re-established until 1907. Also, the war in the Orient was taxing the capacity of the cables. (sources: *New York Times*, April 15, 1905 and *Lasker's Chess Magazine*, May 1905, pp. 2-3)

In 1905, a telegraph match was played between the Manhattan Chess Club and the Chicago Chess and Checker Club. Emanuel Lasker was the referee and adjudicated the unfinished games. The Manhattan Chess Club won 9 to 7. After this event, telegraph cable companies refused to handle and sponsor chess games over cable, giving the reason that their services was always rendered as a loss. In the early days of cable matches, the telegraph companies were very glad to avail themselves of the means of advertising that these chess matches afforded. The rates were not considered important, and there was always room for chess matches on days like Friday and Saturday. The hope of future matches relied on Deforest or Marconi wireless telegraphy. International cable matches were halted due to the Russo-Japanese war, which made arrangements for the cabling

too difficult. The cables were filled with battle reports and diplomatic necessities, with no time to allow chess cable matches.

On April 18, 1906, the Mechanics' Institute Library and Chess Club were destroyed by the San Francisco earthquake and fire. The Chess Club was organized in 1854 to serve the needs of San Francisco's failed gold miners. In 1907, the Institute president, Lewis R. Meade, originally proposed removing the chess room when a new building was being built. He wanted to use the old chess club for more rental space. The backlash was so harsh that the original president, Rudolph Taussig, returned as president, promising space for the chess club. The Library & Chess Room is located at 57 Post Street. (source: Hotchkiss, "The Mechanics' Institution An Historical Oasis," *KQED.org*, Dec 1, 2011)

On April 8, 1907, Emanuel Lasker (1868-1941) defeated Frank James Marshall (1877-1944) 11.5 to 3.5 in 7th world chess championship after 3 months of play in 6 cities. Marshall failed to score a single win, scoring 7 draws and 8 losses. Marshall's excuse for losing so badly was that the games were too boring, saying, "Tedious play aimed at wearing down my opponent is adverse to my nature." Half way thru the match, on March 2, 1907, Lasker and Marshall were hosted by U. S. President Theodore Roosevelt at the White House. (source: Silver, "Americans playing for the title: Frank Marshall," *ChessBase Chess News*, Mar 30, 2018)

In July 1908, perhaps the first chess game by wireless telegraphy in mid-ocean occurred between groups of chess players on the Cunard liners *Campania* and *Oceanic*. The game was drawn after 52 moves. (*British Chess Magazine*, Aug 1908, pp. 349-350)

In 1909, the chess match between Frank Marshall and Jose Capablanca was considered the match for the Championship of America. It was supposed to be 10 games, but 22 games were played. Capablanca won 15-8. The match started on April 19<sup>th</sup> and finished by late June. (source: *Gettysburg Times*, Apr 19, 1909)

On August 2, 1909, German chess master Rudolf Swiderski (1878-1909) committed suicide a week after his 31<sup>st</sup> birthday, in Leipzig. He left a suicide note, and then poisoned and shot himself in the head. He was recently convicted of perjury in a trial that involved him in a disgraceful scandal about a love affair.

(sources: *Trenton Evening Times*, Aug 11, 1909; *Washington Post*, Aug 12, 1909; *The Scotsman*, Aug 12, 1909, p. 8; and *London Western Times*, Aug 12, 1909)

In January 1910, a wireless chess game between ships occurred between the ocean liner *Morea* and the *RMS Mantua*. In March 1910, a wireless chess game between ships occurred between the Dutch mail steamer *Oranje* and the liner *Morea*. In December 1910, chess game by wireless between two ships was one between the Austrian steamship *Francesca* and the German steamship *Elenora Woermann* in the South Atlantic Ocean. The opponents were an Austrian nobleman named Count Kolowrat and a German army officer, Captain von Frankenberg. Count Kolowrat won in 43 moves after 10 hours of play. The ships were 250 miles apart. In January 1911, Rev. A. S. Moffatt of the *SS Moravian* played by wireless against Mr. Raphael of the *Armada Castle*. The ships were 250 miles apart near Cape town. (sources: *Melbourne Argus*, Apr 5, 1910, p.6; *Chess Amateur*, Dec 1910, p. 68; and *CHESS*, Apr 14, 1936, p. 296)

In 1911, Swiss chess master Hans Fahrni (1874-1939) played 100 opponents in a simultaneous display in Munich. He was born in Prague, moved to Switzerland and was the first Swiss Professional chess player. He was the first master to meet 100 opponents. He won 55, drew 39, and lost 6 in seven and a half hours. He was the first Swiss chess composer to compose 150 studies. In 1922, he was the first to write a chess monograph on the opening 1.e4 Nf6, calling it *Alekhine's Defense*. Fahrni suffered several mental breakdowns in his life, and he was institutionalized for a time. He was diagnosed as being schizophrenic. He died in a nursing home in Switzerland. (source: "Hans Fahrni," [www.arves.org](http://www.arves.org))

In June-July 1912, the 6<sup>th</sup> Nordic Chess Congress was organized in Stockholm. The winner was 19-year-old Alexander Alekhine. This was Alekhine's first victory (8 wins, 1 draw, 1 loss) outside Russia and his first victory in an international tournament. His prize money was 1,000 francs. The Congress made an effort to link chess with the Olympic Games (also at Stockholm), but the chess world could not distinguish amateurs from professionals. (source: *American Chess Bulletin*, Sep 1912, p. 207)

In 1913, Harold James Ruthvan Murray (1868-1955) published *History of Chess*. The book, 900 pages, is widely regarded as the most authorities and comprehensive history of chess. The research for the book took him 13 years. He

taught himself Arabic for the early chess manuscripts. Murray was a British educationalist and inspector of schools. He was working on a shorter work on chess history when he died. In 1963, his *A Short History of Chess* was published by Oxford University Press.

In 1913, Capablanca won the national tournament in New York with a perfect 13 out of 13 score. The players then went to Havana. Capablanca finished second to Frank Marshall who defeated him in their individual game. Back in New York, Capablanca won a tournament at the Rice Chess Club, again scoring 13 out of 13. In July 1913, José Raúl Capablanca y Graupera (1888-1942) obtained a post in the Cuban Foreign Office which made him financially secure for life. He was expected to be an ambassador-at-large for Cuba. His official title was "Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary General from the Government of Cuba to the World at Large." He had no specific duties except to play chess around the world. In October 1913, he departed for St. Petersburg to take up his duties as chancellor of the Cuban embassy. He then played in the international tournament in St. Petersburg in 1914, which he won. The event celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the St. Petersburg Chess Society. (source: *Chicago Tribune*, Dec 28, 1913, p. 18)

On Oct 17, 1913, Zeppelin's military airship, L2, caught fire and was destroyed, with a loss of all 28 men. One death was Captain Max Victor Behnisch (1873-1913), in command of the airship. He was one of the strongest members of the Berlin Chess Club (Berliner Schachgesellschaft). In November 1912, Behnisch defeated world champion Emanuel Lasker in a simultaneous exhibition in Berlin. He won in 31 moves. (source: *American Chess Bulletin*, January 1914, p. 11)

In April 1914, the first Russian chess federation was founded. It had 865 members. It was called the All-Russia Chess Union and was formed at the St. Petersburg Chess Assembly. It was later named the All-Russia Chess Society. The group elected Petr Saburov (1880-1932) as the first chairman of the All-Russia chess union. (source: Faibisovich, "A Hundred Years Passed," *e3e5.com*, Sep 13, 2004)

In 1914, the first non-Russian to capture first prize in a major Russian event was Emanuel Lasker at St. Petersburg. The next time a non-Russian won a Russian event was Capablanca at Moscow in 1936. The 3<sup>rd</sup> time a non-Russian won a Russian event was Rosendo Balinas (1941-1998) at Odessa in 1974. The 4<sup>th</sup> time a

non-Russian won a Russian event was Nigel Short at Baku in 1983. (source: *New In Chess Magazine*, March 1984, p. 25)

In 1915, the Ajeeb automaton concentrated on checkers instead of chess while being displayed at Coney Island. Chess masters for hire were more expensive than checkers masters. Its main operator for checkers was checkers master Jesse Bonaparte Hanson, who was six feet tall. Its other operator was a tiny boy named Sam Gonotsky, who later died in 1929 of tuberculosis. In 1932, Hanson and Frank Frain purchased Ajeeb from its owner, Hattie McKeever, for \$1,000. In 1936, Ajeeb toured the United States under contract by RCA to sponsor a Magic Brain radio set, one to be given free to each winner. A \$25 credit slip towards a radio was given to anyone who could draw. Hanson and Frain made \$300 a week with Ajeeb playing checkers. Of the thousands of checker games, Hanson had 8 draws and no losses. While on tour in Quebec, Ajeeb was thought to have supernatural powers and was blessed as a shrine. (source: Whyld, "The Oriental Wonder," *British Chess Magazine*, Jan 1978)

On April 17, 1915, perhaps the first occasion that chess masters were filmed occurred during the first round of the New York Masters tournament. The film included players such as Jose Capablanca and Frank Marshall and other making their moves and recording their games. The film appeared in various theaters throughout the country in an effort to popularize chess. In round 8, after 50 minutes. Edward Lasker called Capablanca's hotel room to remind him of the chess round, since Capablanca did not show up yet. Capablanca replied testily that he was on his way and that Lasker should not have called since that wasted a minute. On May 9, 1915, Jose Capablanca won the New York Masters tournament with 12 wins and 2 draws (both against Marshall). Frank Marshall took 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1 point behind Capablanca. (source: *American Chess Bulletin*, May-June 1915, p. 91)

In 1916, it was reported that out of 1,215 German chess players who were fighting for Germany during World War I, 210 were either killed or wounded. 166 German chess players won the Iron Cross. Chess master Theodor von Scheve (1851-1922) was reported killed, but that was false. On July 5, 1916, German master Friedrich Koehnlein (1879-1916) died in the Battle of Somme in France. (source: *The Chess News*, Jan 1916, p. 29)

On March 21, 1916, Frank J. Marshall (1877-1944) played 105 boards in a simultaneous exhibition held at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. It was a world record at the time and the first chess master to play more than 100 chess games. The former world's record was made in 1911 at Munich by H. Fahrni, who played 100 simultaneous games, winning 55, drawing 39, and losing 6. One member of Congress, Congressman James Glynn (1867-1930) of Connecticut, as well as members of the press club, newspaper correspondents, and local experts participated. Marshall won 82 games, lost 8 and drew 15 in 7 hours. The Vice President of the United States, Thomas R. Marshall (1854-1925), was there to watch and followed Frank Marshall's performance with great interest. In December 1916, he played 129 games simultaneously in Philadelphia, a new world record. He won 97, lost 9, and drew 23. (source: *Colorado Eagle Valley Enterprise*, Apr 28, 1916)

In 1917, Alexander Ilyin-Genevsky (1894-1941) suffered from shell shock during World War I and lost all his memory. He had to learn how to play chess all over again. Disaster followed Ilyin-Genevsky throughout his life. During the Russian Civil War in 1918, his wife shot herself. He died during the siege of Leningrad by the Germans. He was on a barge on Lake Ladoga, east of Leningrad, trying to escape the city, when a German aircraft bombed the barge. He was the only one killed on the barge, which was displaying Red Cross flags. His second wife, uninjured on the barge, was so overcome with despair that she killed herself a few days after Alexander died. However, a Soviet Encyclopedia says that he "was arrested by the secret police during the purges and died in prison in 1941." (source: *Chess Review*, June 1943, p. 209)

On August 28, 1918, Jewish master Dr. Erich Cohn (1884-1918) was killed at the Western Front in France after 3 years service during World War I at the age of 34. He was a German chess master and former Berlin champion. He had been a field doctor for the Red Cross for the past three years. In 1919, Schachmeister Erich Cohn was published in Berlin dedicated to Cohn's memory. Many copies were later destroyed by the Nazis because Cohn was Jewish. (source: Winter, *Chess Notes*, #7213)

In December, 1919, Dr. Emanuel Lasker was in Berlin and wrote a letter to the officials of the Manhattan Chess Club requesting sufficient engagements for simultaneous exhibitions in America. He was interesting in coming to the United States to live. He had lost all his fortune in Germany investing all his money in



German war bonds. Lasker wrote that he was busy writing a chess book because there was nothing to do in Germany. He wrote that chess in Germany was shelved indefinitely and that chess would not be popular in Germany for many years. (source: *The Louisville Courier-Journal*, Dec 16, 1919).

On April 14, 1920, a radio match between Washington DC and Chicago was played. It was the first recorded long distance shortwave radio chess match. The moves in Washington DC were telephoned from the Capital City Chess Club to the United States naval laboratory wireless operator in Arlington, Virginia, and relayed to an amateur's station in Evanston, Illinois, then relayed to the Chicago Chess Club. Edward Lasker (1885-1981) played for Chicago and Norman Tweed Whitaker (1890-1975) played for Washington DC. 25 moves were played in almost 3 and 1/2 hours. The contest closed according to an agreed time limit. Jose Capablanca adjudicated the final position as a win for Whitaker.

In January 1921, Hungarian chess master Gyula "Julius" Breyer (1893-1921) made a new world blindfold chess record, playing 25 games simultaneously. The games were played at Kassa, Hungary. He won 15, drew 7, and lost 3. In 1912, he was Hungarian national champion at the age of 19. He had just won a masters' chess tourney in Berlin. He died in Bratislava on November 9, 1921, of a heart attack at the age of 28. He had just started an engineering company. He was buried in Bratislava, but in 1987 his remains were moved to a cemetery in Budapest. (source: *Perth Western Mail*, June 23, 1921, p. 33)

On Feb 4, 1922, Jose Capablanca (1888-1942) played 103 chess games simultaneously at the Athletic Club in Cleveland. After 8 hours of play, he won 102 and drew one game (Erick Anderson) for the highest percentage wins of notable simuls. This was Capablanca's first American appearance in 14 months. For the draw, Erick received a fine inlaid chess board. (source: *American Chess Bulletin*, Feb 1922, p. 22)

In 1922, Samuel Reshevsky (1911-1992) played in the New York Masters tournament at the age of 10. He was the youngest player ever to have competed in a masters tournament. Sammy did not attend school. A late-night simultaneous exhibition in October, 1922 got him in trouble with child welfare officials. Reshevsky was giving a simul for charity at a theater in New York when it was raided. Reshevsky then complained in front of a judge that America wasn't

a free country as advertised in Poland if they were going to interfere with his chess playing. His parents were charged with improper guardianship in the Manhattan Children's Court. However, it was demonstrated that Reshevsky was receiving religious education in a rabbinical school on East Broadway in New York, and the case was dismissed on November 15, 1922. Following a court recommendation, a sponsor outside the Reshevsky family was designated to report to the court periodically on his behalf. His benefactor, Julius Rosenwald, agreed to provide for Reshevsky's future if he devoted himself to completing his education. Reshevsky then gave up chess for 10 years to pursue a vocation as an accountant. In 1933, he received an accounting degree from the University of Chicago. In his first chess tournament abroad, Margate 1935, he defeated former world champion Jose Capablanca. In his last tournament abroad, he defeated former world champion Vasily Smyslov. Reshevsky played 11 world champions. (sources: *The Des Moines Register*, Oct 24, 1922 and *New In Chess*, No. 4, 1992, p. 63)

In May 1923, Alexander Alekhine tied for first at Carlsbad, Czechoslovakia, with Bogoljubow and Maroczy. After losing to Spielmann at Carlsbad (Karlsbad), Alekhine went back to his hotel room (the Imperial, the best hotel in Carlsbad) and smashed every piece of furniture in his room. (sources: Knoch, *Chess Review*, Feb 1950, p. 55 and Knoch, *Chess Review*, May 1950, pp. 136-138)

On January 31, 1924, German chess master Curt von Bardeleben (1861-1924), age 62, may have committed suicide in Berlin by jumping out of a second-floor window. According to one obituary, however, he fell out by accident. He was found dead, with a crushed skull, in the stone courtyard of the boarding-house where he lived. His life and death have been cited as an inspiration for the main character in the novel *The Defense* by Vladimir Nabokov, which was made into the movie *The Luzhin Defense*. He was a member of the German nobility. He studied law, but never practiced. He became a professional chess player instead. He was married 10 times, supposedly to women who wanted his title of nobility. He was unmarried at the time of his death. He suffered hardship during the difficult years in Germany after World War II. (sources: *Neue Wiener Schachzeitung*, Jan 1924, pp. 21-22 and *Kagans Neueste Schachnachrichten*, No. 2, 1924, p. 55)

In 1924, Herman Mattison (1894-1932) won the first Latvian chess championship. That same year, he won the first World Amateur Chess Championship in Paris. In

1917, he was seriously injured in combat during World War I and spent 6 months in a Petrograd hospital. He then worked as a manual laborer in Moscow until 1921.

On July 20, 1924, the Fédération Internationale des Échecs was founded in Paris. It was the closing day of the Paris Chess Olympiad. At the time, the statutes referred to it as FIE and not FIDE. The first President of FIDE was Dr. Alexander Rueb of Holland. In 1929, 'FIDE' became the official acronym. Its headquarters is now in Lausanne, Switzerland with 200 national associations. Its president is Arkady Dvorkovich. Its deputy president is Viswanathan Anand. Its motto is *Gens una sumus*, Latin for "We are one Family."

On Dec 21, 1925, the Soviet silent comedy film, *Chess Fever* (Shakhmatnaya goryachka), was released. It was directed by Vsevolod Pudovkin and Nikolai Shpikovsky. The film was about the Moscow 1925 chess tournament, held from Nov 10 to Dec 8, 1925. The film combines acted parts with actual footage from the tournament. World chess champion Jose Capablanca is featured in the film, who says he hates chess in the company of a beautiful woman. There are cameo appearances of Frank Marshall, Richard Reti, Carlos Torre, Frederick Yates, and Ernest Gruenfeld. The film director said he used Emanuel Lasker in the film, but it does not look like he appeared at all.

In 1926, Efim Dmitriyevich Bogoljubov (1889-1952) of the USSR won a major chess tournament in Berlin. He then failed to return to the USSR (he lived in Kiev, Ukraine) and was labeled a traitor (a "non-person") and not allowed back into the USSR. In the Soviet Union, he was not allowed to play in chess tournaments without permission from Nikolai Krylenko. In the USSR, mention of his name or putting it in print was forbidden. On Dec 16, 1926, a telegram from Moscow announced that Bogoljubov had renounced his Soviet citizenship because the Italian government had prevented his entrance into Italy for the purpose of taking part in the Meran international tournament – on the ground of his political allegiance. (source: *British Chess Magazine*, Jan 1927, p. 24) In 1977, he was 'rehabilitated' and no longer listed as a traitor. Bogoljubov won the USSR championship in 1924 and 1925. He became a German citizen in 1927 and had a German wife. In May 1928, he beat Euwe in the first FIDE Championship Match (not a world championship match). He was the challenger in the 1929 and 1934 world championship matches with Alekhine, but lost in both matches. When the Nazis came to power in 1933, he was no longer allowed to play chess for the

German national team or in German championships. He joined the Nazi party in 1938, but it did not help his standing in German chess events. He joined so that his daughters would be allowed to study at a university. In 1950, he was denied the Grandmaster title because of the claim that he was an ardent supporter of Hitler. FIDE awarded him the GM title in 1951.

In 1926, checkers master Newell Williams Banks (1887-1977) played in the Masters Invitation Chess Tournament in Chicago. He defeated Isaac Kashdand and US Chess Champion Frank Marshall. He also drew with former US champion Jackson Showalter. He was one of the few players to have mastered both chess and checkers. In 1907, he was the US Checkers Champion. In his lifetime he traveled over a million miles playing chess and checkers and played over 600,000 games of chess and checkers. He was considered the world's best checkers player from 1917 to 1922 and 1933-1934.

On December 22, 1926, the National Chess Federation of the United States of America (NCF) was formed at Chicago. Its president was Maurice Simon Kuhns (1859-1949), who was president of the Western Chess Association. He was President of Safeguard Account Company in Chicago. Directors and officers included Hermann Helms, Edward Lasker and Samuel Factor. Membership was \$1 a year. The *American Chess Bulletin* was designated as the "Official Organ" of the NCF. In 1939, the NCA merged with the American Chess Federation (ACF) to form the United States Chess Federation (USCF). (source: *American Chess Bulletin*, Jan 1927, pp. 1-3)

On June 7, 1927, the French renowned artist and chess addict Marcel Duchamp (1887-1968) got married in Paris. According to Man Ray, Duchamp spent most of the one week they lived together studying chess problems or a position of a game he had been playing. His bride, Lydie Fischer Sarazin-Lavassor (1902-1988), in desperate retaliation, got up one night when he was asleep and glued all the chess pieces to the chessboard. During his honeymoon in Nice, he spent every day at the Nice chess club. They were divorced 6 months later, on Jan 25, 1928. (source, Man Ray, *Self-Portrait*, 1963, p. 237)

On July 18-29, 1927, the first official chess Olympiad (then called Tournament of Nations until 1952) was held in London. At the same time, the first Women's World Championship was held in London. For the men, 16 teams (70 players)

competed in Westminster Central Hall. The British attorney, Honorable F. G. Hamilton-Russell donated a gold-plated trophy for the team winner. The gold went to Hungary, followed by Denmark and England. In 1930, the donated trophy left Hungary and didn't come back to Hungary until 1978.

On January 21-22, 1928, the Hungarian chess master Istvan Abonyi (1886-1942) played 300 chess opponents on 105 boards in Budapest. He won 79, lost 6, and drew 20. He played from 7 pm on Jan 21 to 6 am on Jan 22 without a break. Abonyi was one of the 15 founders of FIDE in 1924. From 1935 to 1939, he was president of the International Correspondence Chess Federation (ICCF). For many years, he was president of the Hungarian Chess Federation and edited *Magyar Sakkvilág* (Hungarian Chessworld). 1.Nf3 d5 2.e4 is known as the Abonyi Gambit (also known as the Tennison Gambit.) (sources: *Wiener Schachzeitung*, Feb 28, p. 45 and *American Chess Bulletin*, Feb 1931, p. 33)

In July-August 1928, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chess Olympiad was held in the Hague. It had 17 teams and 86 players. Again, Hungary took the gold (and trophy) followed by the USA and Poland. The players were supposed to be non-professionals. The British Chess Federation suspected the Americans of sending professionals, so they withdrew its team from taking part. An individual chess tournament of amateurs was also held. It was won by Dr. Max Euwe.

On August 27, 1928, John Griswold White (1845-1928) died in Jackson, Wyoming.. He had the world's largest and most comprehensive collection of printed material on chess, which was donated to the Cleveland Public Library after his death. His book collection numbered 60,000 volumes. There were 32,568 volumes of chess books and 6,359 volumes of bound chess periodicals. At the time, the second largest collection of chess books was owned by Eugene Cook (1830-1915) of Hoboken, New Jersey. When he died, his chess library of over 2,500 volumes was presented to the Princeton University Library. He was a prominent Cleveland attorney. (sources: *The Chess Amateur*, Nov. 1907, and Root, "John G. White Collection of Chess and Checkers," *ChessBase Chess News*, Aug 17, 2021)

In 1929, Boris Markovich Verlinsky (1888-1950) won the 6<sup>th</sup> USSR Championship in Odessa and was awarded the title of the first Soviet Grandmaster of Chess. He was supposed to have been given this title for life and the official presentation was made by N. Krylenko. In 1931, this title was taken away from him at the 7<sup>th</sup>

Chess Congress when the Grandmaster title was abolished in the Soviet Union. In 1935, authorities made Mikhail Botvinnik the first Soviet grandmaster. In 1950, Verlinksy was awarded the International Master title by FIDE just before he died in October. Verlinsky, born in Ukraine, was deaf as a result of meningitis as a youngster. He moved to Russia in 1923. (sources: *Deaf History Journal*, Aug 1998 and Cafferty & Taimanov, *The Soviet Championships*, 1998, pp. 28-29)

In 1930, the Soviet authorities, believing that mental health could be endangered by blindfold chess displays, officially banned them in the Soviet Union. Mikhail Botvinnik also warned against blindfold play. Blindfold players reported that it was more tiring than regular play.

In July 1930, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Olympiad was held in Hamburg. 18 countries and 88 players participated. Poland took the gold, followed by Hungary and Germany. The USA team took 6<sup>th</sup>. Alexander Alekhine played for France and recorded a perfect score, 9 points out of 9 games. Every player scored at least one half of a point.

In December 1930, Alexander Alekhine almost burned to death. After a simultaneous exhibition in Esseg, Yugoslavia, he returned to his hotel room and fell asleep with a lighted cigarette in his hand. The cigarette fell and set the bed linen on fire. The flames brought him to consciousness and he tried to reach his hotel room door, but fell to the floor unconscious. Hotel clerks responded to the fire and entered his room just in time to rescue Alekhine and extinguish the fire. He suffered from burns and was taken to a hospital. (sources: *The Winnipeg Tribune*, Dec 29, 1930 and *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, Dec 31, 1930)

In July 1931, the 4<sup>th</sup> Chess Olympiad was held in Prague, Czechoslovakia. 19 teams participated. Team USA (Kashdan, Marshall, Dake, Horowitz, and Steiner) took the gold for the first time, followed by Poland and Czechoslovakia. Alexander Alekhine took the gold for top 1<sup>st</sup> board. No player avoided a loss. This is the only such case in the history of Chess Olympiads. No one managed to win more than 10 games when they could have played as many as 18 games.

In 1931, International Master (1952) William Albert Fairhurst (1903-1982) moved from Cheshire, England, to Scotland. He then won the Scottish Chess Championship a record 11 times he competed, from 1932 to 1962. In 1937, he won the British Championship. In 1951, he won the Commonwealth

Championship. From 1956 to 1959, he was President of the Scottish Chess Association. He was a bridge builder. He designed the Dundee Tay Road bridge and the Glasgow Kingston bridge. (source: *CHESS*, May 1982, p. 31)

In 1932, Herman Steiner (1905-1955) moved from New York to Hollywood and was editor of a chess column in the *Los Angeles Times* from 1932 until his death in 1955. In December 1932, opened the Steiner Chess Club, later called the Hollywood Chess Club. Regular visitors included Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall, Charles Boyer, Jose Ferrer, Billy Wilder, Louis Hayward, Fritz Feld, Rosemary Clooney, and Jacqueline Piatigorsky. The president of the Hollywood Chess Club was Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. (1909-2000). In 1937, he was driving his car south of Ventura when it hit another car. Steiner's two passengers, Dr. Robert Griffith and Thelma Smith died, along with the driver of the second car, Fred Davalos. Steiner had a fractured skull and severe face and neck lacerations. (source: *Los Angeles Times*, June 1, 1937)

In 1933, *Chess Review* magazine was founded by Isaac Kashdan (1905-1985). It was published from January 1933 to October 1969, when it merged with *Chess Life* (formed in 1961) to become *Chess Life & Review*. Kashdan was editor for the first year, with Al Horowitz (1907-1973) and Fred Reinfeld (1910-1964) associate editors. After one year, Kashdan left and Horowitz became editor for the rest of its existence.

In 1934, the Western Chess Association (founded in 1900 at Excelsior Springs, Minnesota) enlarged to become the American Chess Federation (ACF). In September 1939, the American Chess Federation merged with the National Chess Federation (founded in 1926) to become the United States of America Chess Federation. The new organization had less than 300 members.

On August 20, 1935, Agnes Stevenson (born Lawson) (1873-1935) was on her way to the 1935 World Women's Chess Championship in Warsaw when her plane stopped at Poznan, Poland for a passport check. On her way back to the plane, she ran into the aircraft propeller and was killed instantly. She was four-time British Ladies' Champion (1920, 1925, 1926, and 1930). Her husband, Rufus Stevenson, was editor of the *British Chess Magazine*. Two years later, he married Vera Menchik, women's world champion. (source: London *Daily Herald*, Aug 21, 1935, p. 1)

In 1936, more than 10,000 women chess players took part in the elimination sections for the USSR women's chess championships. The event was won by Olga Semenova. (source: *San Quentin Chess Nuts*, Dec 1955)

In August-September 1936, a chess Olympiad was held in Munich, although Germany was not a member of FIDE at the time. Parts of the German Chess Federation's statutes were anti-Semitic, preventing FIDE from having any involvement in the Munich Olympiad. Germany did agree to drop its ban on Jews for the event, so 21 countries and 209 players participated at Munich. The Jewish team of Hungary took 1<sup>st</sup> place. The Jewish team of Poland took 2<sup>nd</sup> place. The 'aryan' German team took 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Paul Keres of Estonia took the individual gold medal, scoring 15.5 out of 20 games (77.5%).

In 1937, Emanuel Lasker set up a chess academy in Moscow to earn a living by teaching Communists how to play chess. He had previously made the statement that chess was a "dead" game with "no connection with anything human." He also said that chess was far inferior to bridge. In August 1937, Martha and Emanuel Lasker left the Soviet Union, and they moved to the Netherlands. In October 1937, he moved to Chicago, and then to New York. He tried to support himself with chess and bridge lectures and exhibitions. (source: *Life*, Feb 22, 1937)

In February, 1937, Nazi police arrested 13 chess players in Danzig (now Gdansk) because they talked forbidden Socialistic policies between chess moves at a chess club. From 1937 onwards, the Gestapo and the Secret Service tried to eliminate chess clubs and lodges that had Jews as members. (source: *Harlington Valley Morning Star*, Feb 13, 1937)

In 1937, Mary Weiser Bain (1904-1972) was the Women's World Championship Challenger, losing to Vera Menchik. She was the challenger again in 1952, the year she was awarded the Women's International Master (WIM) title. She was the first American woman to represent the United States in an organized chess competition. In 1963, she represented the USA at the 1963 Women's Chess Olympiad, held in Split, Croatia. From 1951 to 1953, she was US Women's Chess Champion. In the 1950s, she ran a chess emporium and coffee house on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street in Manhattan. She also operated a bridge club in New York. She won



tournaments in Cuba, Sweden, Finland, and the USA. She was a pupil of Frank Marshall and Geza Maroczy.

In November 1938, Algemeene Verenigde voor Radio Oemrop (AVRO) (General Association for Radio Broadcasting), a Dutch broadcasting company, sponsored the world's strongest tournament held up to that time. The top eight players in the world participated (Keres, Fine, Botvinnik, Alekhine, Reshevsky, Euwe, Capablanca, and Flohr). First place was equivalent to \$550 (shared by Fine and Keres). Alekhine, for the first time in his life, came ahead of Capablanca. Capablanca, for the first time in his life, fell below 50%. He lost four games in this event. Flohr, the official challenger who was expected to play a world championship match with Alekhine, came last without a single victory in 14 rounds. Each round was played in a different Dutch city that rotated between Amsterdam, The Hague, Rotterdam, Groningen, Zwolle, Haarlem, Utrecht, Arnhem, Breda, and Leiden.

On Dec 3, 1938, chess master Donald "Mac" MacMurray (1914-1938) died 2 weeks after his 24<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was a genius who graduated from high school at 15, and earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Chicago in just 10 months. He also received a Ph.D. in psychology and education from Columbia University and also earned a law degree in one year at Columbia Law School. He died of abdominal cancer. His father was an alcoholic who died when he drowned after falling off a pier. His mother was a cleaning lady in the slums of New York. Despite the odds of such a background, he possessed the highest IQ ever recorded up to the early 1930s. A patron offered him a large sum of money for college if he would abstain from chess for a year, MacMurray declined. In 1937, he took 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Western Chess Association Tournament (US Open) in Chicago. In simultaneous exhibitions, he drew Alekhine and beat Capablanca. (sources: *Chess Review*, Dec 1938, p. 293, and *Tartajubow on Chess*, Sep 17, 2012)

In 1939, the first modern type of rating system was used by the Correspondence Chess League of America (CCLA). The CCLA was formed in 1909 as Correspondence Chess League of New York, but quickly expanded to become the CCLA. In 1930, it started publishing *The Chess Correspondent*.

In February 1940, chess master Conel Hugh O'Donel Alexander (1909-1974) arrived at Bletchley Park, 53 miles northwest of London. This was the British code

breaking center during the Second World War, and they were looking for chess masters to break code. He had just returned from the Chess Olympiad in Buenos Aires. Before the Olympiad, he worked in a department store as a drapery manager. He was tasked with breaking German Army and Air Force Enigma messages. In 1941, he was transferred to the group working on the Naval Enigma. He became deputy head under Alan Turing. In 1944 he was transferred to work on the Japanese JN-25 code. After the war, he headed the cryptanalysis section at the Government Communications Headquarters, a post he retained until his retirement in 1971. Because of his work, he was not permitted to play chess in countries under Soviet control. He was British champion in 1938 and 1956. His son, Michael Alexander (1936-2002) became the foreign policy secretary to Margaret Thatcher and the UK ambassador to NATO. (source: "Remembering IM Hugh Alexander," *British Chess News*, Feb 15, 2020)

In 1940, Polish chess master Achilles Frydman (1904-1940) was arrested by the Nazis in Warsaw, and died in a concentration camp. In the later stages of his life, he suffered from mental illness. In June 1937, he suffered a nervous breakdown while playing in the 4<sup>th</sup> Polish chess championship in Jurata (won by Tartakower). In round 2, Frydman, entirely naked, turned up 15 minutes late for his game against Tartakower. (source: *Ocho x Ocho Especial*, Jan 1995, p. 10). Frydman became dangerous for himself and others. He was later sent to a mental asylum in Kocborowo, 90 miles from Jurata, and doctors warned him against playing any more chess. He was a bank clerk in Lodz. (source: *Deutsche Schachzeitung*, July 1937, pp. 197-198)

In November 1940, the first General Government Championship was held in Krakow/Krynica/Warsaw. Efim Bogoljubow (1889-1952) and Anton Kohler (1907-1961) tied for 1<sup>st</sup> place. Hans Frank (1900-1946), the Governor-General of General Government in Poland, was the patron of the five General Government Nazi tournaments. He was an avid chess player. In Nuremberg on Oct 16, 1946, Frank, having been convicted of war crimes, was hanged.

On May 1, 1941, Miguel Najdorf (1910-1997) played 222 chess games at once at the Club Atletico Olimpo in Bahia Blanca, Argentina. After 13 and 1/2 hours of play, he won 202 games (one of them blindfold), lost 8, and drew 12. The exhibition attracted 5,000 spectators. His birth name was Mojsz Mendel

Mieczyslaw Najdorf. (sources: *Euroque!!*, May 1941; *La Nacion*, May 3, 1941; and *El Ajedrez Americano*, June 1941, p. 183)

On October 2, 1941, Czech chess master and judge Karel Treybal (1885-1941) was condemned to death and executed the same day in Prague by the Gestapo. He was arrested on May 30, 1941 in his office by the Nazis and taken to the Pankrac prison in Prague. He was then moved to prisons in Kladno and Terezin. He was charged with concealing weapons for use by resistance forces. After his murder, what happened to his corpse is unknown. It was not given to his family.

(sources: *Enroque!!!*, Oct 1941, pp. 75-77; *New York Times*, Oct 3, 1941; and Hort, "Remembering Karel Treybal," *ChessBase*, Jan 26, 2018)

In 1942, Humphrey Bogart (1899-1957) was active in chess in Hollywood and he played chess with patients in Veterans hospitals. He played correspondence chess by postcard with American chess players during the production of *Casablanca*.

During the filming of *Casablanca*, Bogart mostly played chess with Paul Henreid (1908-1922), who beat Bogart in all of their games. In the film, Henreid played Victor Laszlo, the Czech Resistance leader and the husband of Ilsa Lund (Ingrid Bergman). Bogart also played several games with crew members and cast (including Claude Rains) off the set or during takes. He was also playing correspondence chess with several GIs overseas. In 1943, he was visited by the FBI and was told not to play any more correspondence chess. The FBI was reading his mail and thought that the chess notation he was sending were secret codes.

In January, 1943, Abram Szpiro (1912-1943) was arrested by the Gestapo in the ghetto of Warsaw and transported to Auschwitz concentration camp, the largest extermination camp in human history. He died there on February 16, 1943. He was a Polish chess master. In 1943, Wilhelm Orbach (Auerbach) (1894-1944) was sent to Auschwitz concentration camp. He died there in 1944 and was later buried in Paris. He was a Jewish German chess master. He won the championship of the city of Frankfurt in 1925. In 1943, Endre Steiner (1901-1944) was sent to a Nazi concentration camp near Budapest. He died there on Dec 29, 1944. He was a Hungarian chess master and the older brother of International Master Lajos Steiner (1903-1975). Other chess masters that died in Auschwitz included Leon Monosson and Leon Szwarcman (sources: L. Steiner, "My brother Endre," *Chess Review*, Nov 1946 and Kandelshine, "Jewish chess players murdered in the Valley of Death in Auschwitz," *maccabiahchess.co.il*, June 8, 2022)

In 1944, Miguel Najdorf became a naturalized citizen of Argentina. He spoke 8 languages (Polish, Spanish, English, Russian, Czech, Serbo-Croat, Dutch, and Yiddish).

In August, 1945, Cpl. Grady Colvin from Missouri, returned home with Adolf Hitler's chess set. He was with the 13<sup>th</sup> Armored Division that captured Berchtesgaden in May, 1945. It was taken from Hitler's vacationing home, the Berghof, in the Bavarian Alps. Hitler may not have played chess, but he had a number of chess sets. In 1941, he donated a chess set to Anton Mussert (1894-1946), the Dutch politician who co-founded the National Socialist Movement in the Netherlands (NSB). (source: Neosho Missouri *Daily News*, Aug 17, 1945)

In January, 1946, a Victory Chess Tournament was to be held in London, sponsored by the newspaper *Sunday Chronicle*. World Champion Alekhine was first invited by the British. There were objections from Max Euwe and the Dutch, and the U.S. Chess Federation because of his articles of anti-Jewish content published under the signature of Alekhine. Arnold Denker threatened to withdraw from the tournament if Alekhine was invited. Alekhine was not invited to the event. Group A was won by Herman Steiner (8 wins, 1 loss, and 2 draws). Group B was won by Max Euwe (9 wins, 1 loss, and 1 draw). The Russians were invited, but they did not show up. (source: *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, Jan 31, 1946)

In 1946, the Soviet Union, when they negotiated to join FIDE, stipulated that Franco's Spain should be thrown out of FIDE. Spain, a founding member of FIDE in 1927, was ejected and the USSR joined FIDE in 1947. (source: *CHESS*, Aug 1983, p. 61)

In 1946, Leonard Barden (1929- ) won the British Junior Correspondence Chess Championship, and tied for 1<sup>st</sup> in the London Boys' Championship. He learned chess in 1942 at the age of 13 while in a school shelter during a World War II German air raid. In 1954, he tied for 1<sup>st</sup> in the British Championship. He is a chess columnist for several British newspapers. His chess column in London's *Evening Standard* is the world's longest-running daily chess column, starting in 1956.

In 1947, Sir Robert Robinson (1886-1975) won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry for his work on plant dyestuffs and alkaloids. He was a strong amateur chess player.

In 1944, he represented Oxford University in a team match with a team of code breakers from Bletchley Park. In the 1940s, he was president of the Oxfordshire Chess Association. From 1950 to 1953, he was president of the British Chess Federation. In 1972, he co-authored the book *The Art and Science of Chess*. (source: *British Chess Magazine*, Feb 1945, p. 36)

In October 1947, Britain won a radio match against Australia, scoring 6 points to 3, with one game unfinished. The match, which lasted 2 days, was the longest range chess match ever played, with 10,500 miles separating the contestants. This was Australia's first defeat in an international match. The players notified their moves through Overseas Telecommunications. (sources: *Sydney Morning Herald*, Oct 7, 1947 and *Tasmania Examiner*, Oct 7, 1947, p. 2)

In 1948, the police in Los Angeles got a complaint from an indignant woman who told them that her husband locked her in their house and made her play chess with him for two straight days. She never won a game. When she tried to cheat, he chased her out of the house and hit her. (source: *California Chess News*, Jan 1948, p. 4)

In 1948, Moscow radio reported that master Reuben Fine was forced by economic circumstances to refuse a world championship chess tournament invitation to The Hague. Fine said the entire story was false. He said, "As a matter of fact, the trip wouldn't have cost me a cent. The Dutch Chess Federation offered me \$2,000, but I didn't want to leave my research work." (source: *California Chess News*, March 1948, p. 2)

In April, 1948, the first Polar radio chess game started between Australian scientists on Heard Island and South Africans on Marion Island, 1,400 miles away. The Australians were studying cosmic rays in the Antarctic, while the South Africans were maintaining a weather station in the Antarctic. This may have been the first Antarctic radio chess game. In 1948, the first U.S. station in Antarctica, East Base, built in 1940, closed down. In 1993, a National Science Foundation team returned to East Base and found chess pieces inside. (sources: *Winnipeg Tribune*, Apr 16, 1948, *Sydney Morning Herald*, Apr 24, 1948, p. 9, and Los Angeles Times, Apr 11, 1993)

In 1948, American chess master Weaver Warren Adams (1901-1963) won the 49<sup>th</sup> U.S. Open in Baltimore. He played in the U.S. Chess Championship 5 times. He won the Massachusetts championship 4 times. He won the New England Open 5 times. He won the Marshall Chess Club championship 6 times. He won the New York State championship 4 times. In 1958, he won the New Jersey championship. In 1939, he wrote a book entitled *White to Play and Win*. After publication he played in the U.S. Open at Dallas. He did not win a single game as White (3 losses and 1 draw) and won all his games (4 games) as Black! He was a chicken farmer and a homosexual.

In 1949, Jacques Mieses (1865-1954) defeated 86-year old Dirk van Foreest (1862-1956) in a tournament at The Hague. He won in 19 moves. Mieses then proclaimed, "Die jugend hat gesiegt." (Youth has triumphed). At the time, Mieses was 84. Youth may have triumphed here, but van Foreest outlived Mieses. (source, California *Gambit*, May 1975, p. 5)

In 1949, Swedish Bror Axel Folke Per Rogard (1899-1973) was elected president of FIDE. He succeeded Alexander Rueb (1882-1959) as president of FIDE since 1924. Folke Rogard was born with the surname of Rosengren, but after a family member was charged with burglary, he changed his name and severed all connections with his family. In 1939, Rogard was elected president of the Swedish Chess Federation. In 1947, he was vice president of FIDE. Rogard remained president until 1970, when Max Euwe (1901-1981) was elected president of FIDE. Rogard spoke 5 languages.

In July, 1950, FIDE met in Copenhagen for their annual congress. FIDE awarded its first Grandmaster (GM) title to 27 players. The first list also included 94 International Masters and 17 International Women Masters. The first GMs were Bernstein, Boleslavsky, Bondarevsky, Botvinnik, Bronstein, Duras, Euwe, Fine, Flohr, Gruenfeld, Keres, Kostic, Kotov, Levenfish, Lilienthal, Maroczy, Mieses, Najdorf, Ragozin, Reshevsky, Saemisch, Smyslov, Stahlberg, Szabo, Tartakower, and Vidmar. The initial selections were based on subjective considerations, and were limited to living, not necessarily active, chess players. Objective criteria for title candidates were introduced in 1957, based on title norms.

On November 1, 1951 seven stamps were issued in Cuba as part of the 30th anniversary of Jose Capablanca winning the world chess championship from

Emanuel Lasker in 1921. This was the first portrayal of a chess player (Capablanca) on a stamp. Two stamps of Capablanca are based on a portrait by the Cuban artist E. Valderrama, and two stamps are from a photograph of Capablanca taken in 1941. One stamp shows the final position of the last game of the world championship match, 1921. There was a print error on one of the stamps (2 cent stamp), spelling "JOSF" instead of "JOSE." The Capablanca commemorative stamps outsold any previous issue in Cuba's postal history except for the 4 cent Franklin Roosevelt stamp issued in 1947.

In August 1952, the 10<sup>th</sup> Chess Olympiad was held in Helsinki, Finland. 25 teams participated, including 13 grandmasters. It was the first time that the USSR had a chess team at the Olympiad. The USSR team (Keres, Smyslov, Bronstein, Geller, Boleslavsky, and Kotov) won the gold, followed by Argentina and Yugoslavia. The US team took 5<sup>th</sup> place. Miguel Najdorf won the individual gold medal.

In May 1953, the first chess match over television was shown in London. It was limited to three sessions of 10 minutes each. In 1954, television made its first appearance in the history of world chess championship matches during the Botvinnik vs. Smyslov world championship match in Moscow. (sources: *La Crosse Tribune*, May 27, 1953 and *British Chess Magazine*, May 1954, p. 141)

From June 16 to June 24, 1954, a chess match was played between a team from the USSR and a team from the USA at the Hotel Roosevelt in Manhattan. It was the first time the Soviet chess team played on United States soil. The match drew 1,100 spectators, more than any other previous chess event in U.S. history. The match was refereed by Hans Kmoch (1894-1973). The USSR team won 20-12. Bobby Fischer, age 11, attended all four rounds and kept score of all the games. (source: *Chess Review*, July 1954, p. 11)

In 1955, British International Master Henry Ernest Atkins (1872-1955) died at the age of 82 in Huddersfield, England. He won the British Chess Championship a record nine times in eleven attempts. He won every year from 1905 to 1911, and again in 1924 and 1925. He was a mathematical scholar and principal at Huddersfield New College.

On Nov 25, 1955, Herman Steiner (1905-1955) died of a heart attack after a game of chess. He was defending his California State Chess Championship title in Los

Angeles, when after finishing his 5-th round game with William Addison, he felt unwell. He then postponed his afternoon game and died 2 hours later around 9:30 pm of a heart attack. By agreement of the players, the tournament was canceled. Steiner ran the Hollywood Chess Group. After his death, it was renamed the Herman Steiner Chess Group and ran as a non-profit enterprise. (source: *Herman Steiner Chess Group News*, Jan 1956, p. 2)

In 1956, China first sponsored chess as a competitive sport. In the same year, the 1<sup>st</sup> Chess Exhibition Tournament was held in Beijing with 6 players. In 1957, a National Chess Tournament was held with 22 players. In 1962, the Chess Association of China was set up, but was not a fully-fledged independent organization until 1986. From 1966 to 1974, chess was banned during the Chinese Cultural Revolution. In 1976, China joined FIDE and participated in international competitions. In 1978, China first played in a Chess Olympiad in Buenos Aires (18<sup>th</sup> place). In 2014, the men's team won the gold medal at the Chess Olympiad in Norway. (source: *CHESS*, Nov 1979, pp. 6-7)

In August-September 1956, the 12<sup>th</sup> Chess Olympiad was held at the Red Army Central Theatre in Moscow. 34 teams participated, but not the USA team. 1,220 games were played, the first time that over a thousand games were played in an Olympiad. 197 players, including 20 GMs played. The Soviet team (Botvinnik, Smyslov, Keres, Bronstein, Taimanov, Geller) lost their first ever match, but still won the gold. Yugoslavia and Hungary tied for 2<sup>nd</sup>. Yugoslavia took the silver medal on tiebreaks. Bent Larsen won the individual gold on board 1.

In 1956, it was disclosed that the Russians used a civil service chess club in Ottawa, Canada as a cover for attempted espionage. The Russians, members of the chess club, made unsuccessful attempts to get secret military information from 30-year-old James Stanley Staples, a former RCAF clerk. at the chess club. Staples was later fired from his job at the RCAF Rockcliffe air station as a security risk after he continued to see the Russians at the chess club. Soviet embassy secretary Gennadi Popov was expelled from Canada. Several other members of the chess club were approached to be spy contacts. Some Canadian members resigned in protest when the Russians flocked to the chess club. (source: *Ottawa Citizen*, Sep 26, 1956, p. 15)



In July 1957, Alexander Piotrowski was playing chess with Kazimierz Osiecki on the lawn on their jointly-owned house in Clapton, England. Osiecki captured Piotrowski's queen without saying "guard" when he threatened it on the previous move. Piotrowski told Osiecki to take the move back. Osiecki refused. That's when Piotrowski picked up a garden chair and hit Osiecki. Osiecki then picked up the wooden chess board and threw the board in Piotrowski's face. A more serious fight then broke out between the two Poles. Both players were then sent to the hospital with a fractured rib and assorted cuts and bruises. The case went to court in London. The magistrate, Frank Milton, observed that this was the first chess match in 2,000 years to send both participants to the hospital. He declared the match to be a draw and dismissed both charges. (sources: *The Ottawa Journal*, July 18, 1957 and *CHESS*, April 20, 1963, p. 212)

On January 18, 1958, Dr. Edmund Adam (1894-1958) died. He was the last German Open correspondence chess champion. He spent World War II in a concentration camp. From 1946 to 1956, he was President of the German Correspondence Association. In 1950, he played in the first world correspondence championship and took 7<sup>th</sup> place. In 1950, he played a correspondence game with International Master Graham Russell Mitchell (1905-1984), the then deputy director general of MI5, the British Security Service. More than 50 years later, the postcards were discovered in Mitchell's effects, and were auctioned being advertised as top secret postcards. They were thought to contain coded messages sent from Adam, a Cold War spy in Germany. Mitchell was a suspected double agent.

In 1958, the first computer played chess. Alex Bernstein (1930-1999), an IBM programmer and chess player, played the first full computer chess game on an IBM 704. The program took about 8 minutes to calculate 2,800 positions. (sources: Bernstein, "Computer v. Chess-Player," *Scientific American*, June 1958, pp. 96-105 and *The New Yorker*, Nov 21, 1958)

In 1959, Robin Ault (1941-1994) won the U.S. Junior Championship on tiebreak over Gilbert Ramirez. He won it again in 1960. He won it a third time in 1961 on tiebreak over Bernard Zuckerman. He is the only person to win the US Junior Championship 3 times in a row. In 1959, being US Junior Chess Champion, he qualified to play in the US Chess Championship, but lost all 11 games. After his 0-11 performance, the qualification rules were changed so that the US Junior Champion did not receive an automatic invitation to the US Championship. Soon after, he dropped out of chess. He earned a Ph.D. in mathematics at Brandeis University, became a math professor,

senior software engineer, and a social justice activist. (source: *Cranford Chronicle*, Oct 19, 1994)

In 1959, Walter Harris (1941- ) became the first African-American chess master after his performance at the US Junior Championship (5<sup>th</sup> place) in Omaha, Nebraska. A few days after the US Junior championship, Harris was unable to get a hotel room where the US Open was being held in because he was black. The hotel was the Sheraton-Fontenelle Hotel. In those days, Blacks were not allowed access to public facilities in Omaha, The hotel manager pulled Anthony Saidy aside and told him that Harris was not welcome. Saidy, who was accompanying Harris protested, but no avail. They went to another hotel where they were able to find accommodations. Harris later became an accomplished physicist and worked as a scientist at the U.S. Naval Observatory in Washington, DC. (sources: *Jet*, April 1960; *Ebony*, July 1960; Shabazz, "The Rising of the Black Star," *Chess Life Online*, Mar 2, 2007; an *Tartajubow on Chess*, Sep 30, 2016)

In 1960, the first Armed Forces Chess Championship was held at the American Legion Hall of Flags in Washington, DC. It continued uninterrupted through 1993. The first winners were Air Force Captain John Hudson (1930-2012) and Army SP4 Arthur Feuerstein (1935-2022). Both tied for 1<sup>st</sup> place. Hudson was a bombardier-navigator on B-52 bombers and a former US Amateur chess champion. Feurestein was 4-time New York state chess champion.

On May 21, 1961, Lisa Lane (1938- ), appeared on *What's My Line?* (Season 12, Episode 38), and stumped the panel as a professional chess player (though not a chess master) and the reigning U.S. women's chess champion during the first game. *What's My Line?* was a TV series from 1950 to 1967. In 1959, she was the U.S. Women's Chess Champion and held that title until 1962. She appeared on the August 7, 1961 cover of *Sports Illustrated*, making her the first chess player to appear on its cover (Bobby Fischer did so in 1972). She tied for 1<sup>st</sup> in the 1966 U. S. Women's championship. Lisa first saw a chess game in 1957 while a freshman math major at Temple University in he home town of Philadelphia. A date taught her the moves. Within a month, she could beat him at chess. She then became Philadelphia women's champion. In 1958, she was a rated expert after playing in the US Open. (source: *Virginia Free Lance-Star*, May 16, 1961, p. 4)

On October 25, 1962, chess master Abe Turner (1924-1962) was stabbed to death. He was 38 years old. He won the 1956-57 Manhattan Chess Club championship. Theodore Weldon Smith, an ex-mental patient and clerk-typist at the office of *Chess Review* magazine, was arrested for murder after stabbing to death Abe Turner at the office of *Chess Review* magazine. Smith stabbed Turner 9 times in the back, and then stuffed his 280-pound body in a large safe in a doctor's basement. Turner's body was found by the building superintendent that afternoon. Smith had been recently released from an insane asylum and claimed that Turner was a Communist spy and had to be killed on orders from the U.S. Secret Service. In another version by Arthur Bisguier, Smith killed Turner because Turner made a homosexual pass at Smith. Shortly before his death, Turner appeared on *Who Do You Trust*, hosted by Johnny Carson, and talked about chess. (sources: *New York Times*, Oct 26, 1962; *The Brandon Sun*, Manitoba, Oct 31, 1962; *Chess Review*, Dec 1962, p. 356; and *Tartajubow on Chess*, July 15, 2011)

In April, 1963, President John F. Kennedy (1917-1963) met a 12-year-old named Levi Frazier while being introduced to some members of the Washington Boys Club. Levi, an African-American, was also an expert chess player. Kennedy told the boy, "How about coming over to the White House and teaching me to play chess? I've never learned. In November 1963, Bobby Fischer was to play over 400 opponents in a simultaneous exhibition, but was postponed and cancelled after Kennedy's assassination. Fischer was trying to break a world record of most opponents in a simul. When Kennedy died, one of his chess sets that he got for a birthday present was given to Peter Lawford. (sources: Eau Claire *Daily Telegram*, Apr 12, 1963 and "Drew Pearson Merry-Go-Round," Apr 12, 1963)

In May-June 1964, the Interzonal tournament was held at the Social Security Building in Amsterdam with 24 players. It was a four-way tie for first place between Smyslov, Larsen, Spassky, and Tal (17 out of 23). First place was \$250. A 1959 rule was in effect, prohibiting more than three players from the same country from qualifying. Only three of the five Soviet players were allowed to be seeded into the 1975 Candidates matches. That prevented 5th place finisher Leonid Stein and 6th place finisher David Bronstein from qualifying for the Candidates tournament. This was the 2nd time Stein failed to qualify for the same reason. The 8th place finishers, Reshevsky and Portisch, played a play-off match. This was won by Portisch. Paul Keres was the runner-up in the previous Candidates, and was seeded into the 1965 Candidates matches. Mikhail Botvinnik,

the loser of the last world chess championship to Petrosian, was seeded in the Candidates matches but declined to participate. His place was taken by Geller, who had finished 3rd in the previous Candidates tournament. Bobby Fischer, after winning the US Championship with a perfect score, and qualifying to play in the Interzonal, refused to play in the Interzonal. He was boycotting FIDE tournaments because he claimed the Soviets were cheating by drawing with each other. Fischer was undefeated in the last Interzonal at Stockholm. The US representatives were Reshevsky, Evans (14th place) and Benko (16th place). Each received \$500 for playing in the event.

In 1964, chess master William (Bill) Goichberg (1942- ) of New York was hired by the USCF to be their rating statistician. In the same year, he founded the New York City Chess Association. In 1966, he was co-editor of *Chess Life* magazine. In 1968, Goichberg's chess association was renamed the Continental Chess Association (CCA). He has organized more chess tournaments than anyone else in North America. In 1970, he started the National Scholastics events. In 1973, he developed the World Open, usually the largest Swiss event anywhere. (source: *Kingsport Post*, Apr 26, 1978)

In November 1964, the 16<sup>th</sup> Chess Olympiad was held in Tel Aviv. All the team captains and top boards were presented to the President of Israel, Zalman Shazar (1889-1974). The Premier, Deputy Premier, and Mayor of Tel Aviv (Mordechai Namir) all spoke at the opening ceremony. The drama at the final dinner was provided by the presentation to the winning team, USSR team, made by Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion (1886-1973). (source: Santa Monica *Chess Time*, March 1967, p. 1)

In November 1964, Canadian International Master Frank Ross Anderson (1928-1980) was playing in the Chess Olympiad in Tel Aviv. He became very ill (reaction to an incorrect prescription) and was unable to play his final round. He missed the Grandmaster title because of this. There was a 24 games requirement in international events for the GM title, and Anderson had played 23 games. Even if he had played and lost, he would have made the final norm necessary (playing 24 games in international competition) for the GM title. He finished with 4 wins, 3 draws, and 5 losses. Anderson, from youth, had polio and was disabled his whole life.

On January 11, 1965, three Ohio State University students claimed the world endurance record for chess players. Karl Stechle, Carl Jackman, and John Phythian stayed at the chess board for 58 straight hours. In November 2018, Hallvard Haug Flatebe and Sjur Ferkingstad (both of Norway) played chess for 56 hours, 9 minutes, and 37 seconds. (sources: Dover, *Ohio Daily Reporter*, Jan 11, 1965, p. 1 and [www.guinnessworldrecords.com](http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com))

In August-September 1965, the 4<sup>th</sup> Capablanca Memorial Chess Tournament was held at the Habana Libre Hotel in Havana, Cuba. This was the tournament that Bobby Fischer played by teletype. During the event, 98,723 spectators passed through the hotel to witness the chess tournament, a world attendance record. The event was won by Vasily Smyslov. (source: *New In Chess*, 1998, No. 6, p. 86)

On Nov 20, 1966, an M-20 computer at the Institute of Theoretical and Experimental Physics (ITEP) in Moscow, made the historic move 1.e4, and a computer at Stanford University (the Kotok-McCarthy Program on an IBM 7090 computer) responded with 1...e5. On March 10, 1967, the USSR computer made its 19<sup>th</sup> move – Qxf8# (QxR mate). Several other games were played simultaneously, and the USSR computer finally won the tournament, scoring 3-1 (2 wins and 2 draws). (sources: *Software Age*, Jan 1969, p. 37, and Central California *Scacchic Voice*, April-May 1969, p. 7)

In December, 1966, Dutch chess champion Jan Hein Donner (1927-1988) created a Christmas card with the slogan "Johnson Murderer." The card was entered at an auction of art works by amateurs in Amsterdam. Authorities of the auction later removed from public sale the Christmas card. The Christmas card was made in reference to U.S. policy in Vietnam. The Christmas card was later sold after the official auction for \$75. Donner was a controversial left-wing person with pro-Soviet political beliefs. (source: *San Rafael Daily Independent Journal*, Dec 24, 1966)

In January 1967, MacHack VI was the first computer to play in a human chess tournament. It played in the monthly Boylston Chess Club at the Young Mens Christian Union in Boston. The chess program was played on a DE PDP-6. In 1967, the program played in 4 chess tournaments, winning 3, losing 12, and drawing 3. (source: *Chess Life*, Feb 1967, p. 23)

In 1967, William Grady Addison (1933-2008) was awarded the International Master title by FIDE. He played in 5 US chess championships. From 1965 to 1969, he served as director of the San Francisco Mechanics' Institute Chess Room. In 1969, he took 2<sup>nd</sup>, behind Samuel Reshevsky, in the 20<sup>th</sup> US championship. After the Palma de Mallorca Interzonal in 1970, where he took 18<sup>th</sup> place, he returned to San Francisco and drove a taxi. He later found employment at the Crocker National Bank. He was considered the best Go player among chess players.

In August 1968 International Master and Scottish chess champion David Levy (1945- ) made a \$3,000 bet that no chess computer would beat him in 10 years. He won his bet. The original bet was with John McCarthy (1927-2011), a distinguished researcher in Artificial Intelligence at Stanford. The bet was made at a party hosted by Donald Michie (1923- ) during a conference on Artificial Intelligence at Edinburgh University. Other AI experts signed on later, with the bet total reaching 1,250 British pounds. It wasn't until 1989 that a computer program, Deep Thought, beat him. Levy was the first International Master to lose a single game to a computer.

In 1969 Andras Adorjan (1950- ), then known as Andras Jocha, finished runner-up in the World Junior Chess Championship in Stockholm, behind Anatoly Karpov. In 1970, he was European Junior Champion. In 1973 he tied for 1<sup>st</sup> in the Hungarian Championship and was awarded the GM title. In 1977, during a game with Packman in Munich, he had a heart attack and collapsed to the floor. He was rushed to the hospital and survived. In 1987, he won the New York Open.

In 1969, Bobby Fischer's *My 60 Memorable Games* was published by Simon & Schuster. It has been translated in Armenia, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Persian, Russian, and Spanish. It was originally published in descriptive notation. In 1995, an algebraic notation version was published, but with changes to the original text. In 2008 a reissue of Fischer's original text was published.

On June 9, 1970, chess was played in space for the first time. Cosmonaut Vitaly Sevastianov (1935-2010), along with cosmonaut Andrian Nikolayev (1929-2004), played chess against the ground crew (including cosmonaut Viktor Gorbatko (1934-2017) and head of cosmonaut training, Nikolai Kamanin (1908-1982)) during their Soyuz 9 spaceflight. Several psychologists opposed any chess play,

saying that it could lead to “unnecessary negative emotions” in the members of the losing team. The game ended in a draw after 6 hours of play. Sevastianov, who also flew on the Soyuz 18 mission, retired from the cosmonaut corps in 1993 and became a member and President of the Duma, representing the Communist Party. He also became President of the Soviet Chess Federation (1977-1986, 1988-1989). The mission, and the chess game, was commemorated in a stamp issued shortly after the mission was completed. The first chess set in space, used by Sevastianov and Nikolayev, is now on display at the first Russian Chess Museum on Gogol Blvd in Moscow (opened in September 2014). (source: Swamy, “Extraterrestrial Chess: 50 Years of the First Earth Versus Space Game,” *Readers Digest*, June 9, 2020)

In 1971 the Institute of Control Science, Moscow, created *Kaissa* using a British computer (British ICL System 4/70 with 64-bit processor) to play chess. The program was written in Assembly language and could evaluate 200 positions a second. It had a memory of 24,000 bytes and stored 10,000 opening positions. The speed of the ICL 4/70 was 900,000 instructions per second. In 1974, *Kaissa* became the first world computer chess champion. The ICL 4/70 was originally designed to calculate probabilities of earthquakes.

In 1972, the first Brit to be awarded the GM title went to Comins Mansfield (1896-1984) for chess compositions. In 1959, he became FIDE’s first Master for Chess Composition. In 1963, he became President of FIDE’s Problem Commission. From 1964 until 1978, he was a chess columnist for the London *Sunday Telegraph*. In 1976, he was awarded the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) for his services to chess.

In 1973, the USCF honored Phoenix by designating it as the Chess City of the Year. The Phoenix Chess Club was the first chess club in American history to pass the 400 member mark with 100% of its membership also members of the USCF. (source: *Arizona Woodpusher*, Jan-Jun 1973, p. 52)

In August 1973, the U.S. Open was held in Chicago. The game between Walter Browne and William Lombardy was adjourned in round 11, with Lombardy making the sealed move. The next morning Lombardy was 20 minutes late and he found his chess clock running, but his sealed move was not made on the board. Lombardy took the clock and set it back 20 minutes. Browne was mad and asked

Lombardy if he thought he was God! Browne picked up the clock and threw it on the floor. The tournament director decided not to give Lombardy his time back. Lombardy finally lost after making Browne mate his lone king with Browne's king and queen. (source: *Phoenix Woodpusher*, Jul-Sep 1973, p.19)

In 1973, the police raided a chess tournament in Cleveland, Ohio. The arrested the tournament director and confiscated the chess sets on charges of allowing gambling (cash prizes to winners) and possession of gambling devices (the chess sets). The confiscated the prize money of \$50. The charges were later dropped.

In 1973, Jan Hein Donner (1827-1988), a chain smoker, was playing a chess game against Dr. Jonathan Penrose (1933-2021) in Manchester. He had smoked several cigarettes and put them out in his ashtray. Soon, the extinguished cigarettes in his ashtray burst into flames. The ashtray cracked and the burning paper, tobacco, and ash poured over towards the two players. Ray Keene, who observed the fire, seized Dr Penrose's coffee cup and threw the contents over the fire. The sticky black ooze spread over the table and chessboard. The two players instantly took a draw and left it up to the janitor to clean up the mess. (source: *New In Chess Magazine*, Sep 1984, p. 49)

In June 1974, the 21<sup>st</sup> Chess Olympiad was held in Nice. The USA team took 3<sup>rd</sup> place, winning the bronze medal. This was the first time since 1937 that the USA won a medal. The USSR team won by 8.5 points, the biggest victory margin yet. It was their 12 consecutive gold medal. The USA team consisted of Kavalek, Byrne, Browne, Reshevsky, Lombardy, and Tarjan. James Tarjan won an individual gold medal as the highest-scoring No. 6 team member in the entire Olympiad. (source: *San Jose Chess Club Newsletter*, Aug 1974, p. 12)

In 1974, FIDE temporarily banned South Africa and Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) during the chess Olympiad in Nice, France, due to their apartheid practices. South Africa withdrew from the tournament with 3 rounds to go. Rhodesia was allowed to finish the tournament and won the Final E section. South Africa did not return to play until the 1992 Chess Olympiad in the Philippines after the end of apartheid. During the Olympiad, the Tunisians refused to play the Israelis, and Iraq and Algeria refused to play the Rhodesians.



On July 21, 1975, Nicolas Rossolimo (1910-1975) fell down some stairs in New York and died three days later of head injuries. He had just taken 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the 1975 World Open (7 wins, 1 draw, and 1 loss). In 1948, he was French chess champion. He won the Paris championship a record 7 times. In 1953, he was awarded the GM title. In 1955, he won the US Open in Long Beach on tiebreaks over Samuel Reshevsky. The prize was a new Buick automobile. He was born in Kiev, and lived in Greece (Greek citizen in 1929), France, and the USA. His father was a portrait painter and his mother was a war correspondent. In New York, he worked as a bellhop, waiter, taxi driver, and ran a chess studio. The Rossolimo Chess Studio was located in Greenwich Village in Manhattan. He spoke 5 languages and earned a brown belt in judo.

In February 1976, Michael Joseph Wilder (Aug 17, 1962 - ), age 13, became the youngest US master since Bobby Fischer after he tied for 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Greater New York Open, held at the Roosevelt Hotel in Manhattan. He became an IM in 1980 and a GM in 1988. In 1988, he won the U.S. chess championship. In 1989, he gave up chess to become an attorney. (source: *New York Times*, May 23, 1976)

In July 1976, CHESS 4.5 won the Paul Masson Class B Championship in Saratoga, California. It was the first victory of a computer in a human tournament. It started out with a USCF rating of 1572, or Class C rating. The computer won 5 straight games from Class B players, scoring 5-0. Its new rating after the event was 1785. (source: *Gambit on Games*, 1976, p. 10)

In March 1977, The Chess Challenger 1 was the first commercial chess computer on the market. It was manufactured by Fidelity Electronics in Chicago. It was invented by Sidney Samole. The programmer was Ron C. Nelson. Its cost was \$800.

In 1977, Grandmaster (1976) Boris Gulko (1947- ) won the 45<sup>th</sup> USSR Chess Championship at Leningrad along with Iosif Dorfman. A year before, his wife won the Soviet Women's Championship. He was allowed to immigrate to the United States in 1986, after trying since 1977. In 1994 and 1999, he won the US championship. He is the only person to have won the USSR and the US chess championships. Gulko and his wife Anna Akhsharumova were refuseniks. His house was often raided, vandalized, bugged, and all their medals and trophies

were stolen by the KGB. In 1987 , Anna won the US Women's championship with a perfect 9-0 score.

In 1977, Elena Bronislavovna Akhmilovskaya (1957-2012) was awarded the Woman Grandmaster (WGM) title. In 1986, she was Women's World Chess Championship Challenger, but lost to Maya Chiburdanidze. In 1988, she eloped with American team captain John Donaldson during the Chess Olympiad at Thessaloniki, Greece and defected to the United States. She won the U.S. Women's Championship in 1990 and 1994, and tied for 1<sup>st</sup> in 1993. The Donaldsons divorced and in 1995 she married IM Georgi Orlov. She died of brain cancer at age 55. (sources: *New York Times*, Nov 1, 2012, and *Los Angeles Times*, Dec 1, 2012)

In 1978, Vladimir Bagirov (1936-2000) was awarded the GM title at the age of 42. In 1998, he won the 8<sup>th</sup> World Senior Championship, held in Austria. His first place prize was more than two years of his pension. He trained Mikhail Tal and Garry Kasparov in the early years. He had a heart attack while playing in a chess tournament in Finland and died the next day after the game. The game itself had to be aborted because of his heart attack at the board. He had just finished a move while in time-trouble, and his flag fell on his chess clock. As both players moved to a separate board to reconstruct the game, he collapsed with a heart attack. He died less than a month of his 64<sup>th</sup> birthday.

On March 19, 1978, Carlos Torre Repetto (1904-1978) died in Merida, Yucatan at the age of 73. He was the first person from Mexico to be awarded the GM title. His chess career was cut short by mental illness and he spent most of his life after 1926 in mental institutions and hospitals. In 1923, he won the Louisiana state chess championship. In 1924, he won the 25<sup>th</sup> Western Open (US Open) at Detroit. He was awarded the GM title in 1977. He quit chess at the age of 22 only after two years professionally. (source: "Mexico's Chess Master: Carlos Torre," *mexicomike.com*)

In 1978, Lajos Portisch (1937- ) led the Hungarian chess team to a gold medal at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Chess Olympiad in Buenos Aires, stopping the USSR team for the first time from winning the gold. Portisch had a personal score of 10 out of 14. He participated in a record 20 Olympiads from 1956 until 2000. He played a record 260 games and won 11 medals. He won 121 games, lost 26, and drew 113 in Olympiad play. He qualified for the World Chess Championship Candidates Cycle 8 times. (source: *New In Chess*, No. 3, 1990, p. 37)

In 1979, Grandmaster Lev Osipovich Alburt (1945- ) defected from the USSR to the USA and residing in New York. He trained as a theoretical physicist before becoming a chess professional. Speaking at Harvard's Russian Research Center, Alburt said some Soviet grandmasters were "used as KGB infiltrators." By the end of 1979, he was the highest rated player in the U.S. Alburt later became three-time U.S. Chess Champion (1984, 1985, and 1990). He had been three-time Ukrainian Chess Champion. He was inducted in the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame in 2003.

In July-October 1978, Baguio City, Philippines hosted the World Chess Championship match between Anatoly Karpov and Victor Korchnoi. No flags were present because Korchnoi had defected from the Soviet Union and was "stateless" and had no flag to represent. The national anthem for both players was supposed to be played. The orchestra did not know the Soviet national anthem and played something else. Since Korchnoi did not represent any country, the orchestra played Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. On the morning of the match, it was discovered there was not a single "Staunton" design chess set in the city. Someone drove 150 miles to Manila to buy a Staunton chess set for the world chess championship. It arrived 15 minutes before the scheduled first game.

In November-December 1980, the 24<sup>th</sup> Chess Olympiad was held in La Valletta, Malta. Malta was the smallest of FIDE member-nations. 82 teams participated, with 58 grandmasters. The Soviet Union team (Karpov, Polugaevsky, Tal, Geller, Balashov, and Kasparov) took the gold on tiebreaks over Hungary. Yugoslavia took the bronze.

In 1980, Gail Widner (1946- ) of the U.S. Virgin Islands glanced into the building where the island's chess club was housed. Because the women's team for the upcoming Chess Olympiad was one woman short, she was recruited to play on the women's chess team for the Chess Olympiad. Her first Olympiad was at Malta in 1980 where she won 1 game and lost 12 on board 1. In 1982, she played board 1 for the US Virgin Islands at Lucerne. She lost all 10 games. In 1984, she played 1<sup>st</sup> board at The Thessaloniki Olympiad and lost all 10 games. She did not play in 1986. In 1988, she played board 3 for the US Virgin Islands and lost all 13 games. (source: *New In Chess Magazine*, Jan/Feb 1985, pp.4-5)

In 1981, Cray Blitz became the 1st computer program to win a state championship. It won the Mississippi State Closed Chess Championship with a perfect 5-0 score and a performance rating of 2258. In round 4 it defeated Joe Sentef (2262) to become the

first computer to beat a master in tournament play and the first computer to gain a master rating (2258). The Cray Blitz computer chess program was written by Robert Hyatt, Henry Neson, and Albert Gower to run on a Cray-1 supercomputer. Cray Blitz won the 1983 and 1986 World Computer Chess Championship.

In 1982, a chess tournament was held on Mount Everest at a base camp at 7,000 meters (22,965 feet). Eight players took place. On May 1, 2016, mountain climbers Jost Kobusch of Germany and Nadav Ben-Yehuda played a game on top of Annapurna (8,091 meters high). In September 2019, the 1<sup>st</sup> Mount Everest Chess Championship took place. 13 players took place, all from Nepal, It was won by Min Lama.

In October 1983, *Belle* became the first chess computer to attain a master's rating when its USCF rating was published at 2203. It competed in the U.S. Open, scoring 8.5 out of 12, with a performance rating of 2363. By the end of the year, its rating was 2250. *Belle* was developed by Joe Condon (hardware) and Ken Thompson (software) at Bell Labs. In 1980, it won the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Computer Chess Championship. *Belle* ran on an LSI-11 computer and could examine over 100,000 moves per second. In 1986, *Belle* retired and was donated to the Smithsonian Institution.

In 1984, Nigel David Short (1965- ) of England was awarded the GM title at 19 years, 2 months. At age 11, he qualified to play in the British Chess Championship. In 1977, he tied for 1<sup>st</sup> in the British Championship. In 1980, he became (at the time) the youngest International Master in the world. In 1993, he became the first English player to play a World Chess Championship match when he played Garry Kasparov. As a teenager, he ran a dance band. Short was the 8<sup>th</sup> GM from Britain. (source: **CHESS**, Aug 1984, p. 87)

In 1984, the first satellite simultaneous exhibition took place as Garry Kasparov (1963- ) played 10 players in London and New York City at the same time. Kasparov challenged 5 junior British players and 5 junior American players. In 4 and a half hours, he beat all 10 opponents. (source: *New York Times*, July 2, 1984)

In 1984, Georgy Agzamov (1954-1986) became the first GM from Central Asia (Uzbekistan). He was champion of Uzbekistan in 1976 and 1981. He was a philologist. In 1986, after finishing a chess tournament in Sevastopol in the Crimea, he was accidentally killed when he went hiking and fell off a cliff and became trapped between two rocks. People heard his cries for help, but he was too deep down, and by the time rescue crews got to him, it was too late.

In 1985, Simen Agdestein (1967- ) became Norway's first GM. He has won 8 Norwegian chess championships. In 1986, he tied for first with Walter Arencibia in the World Junior Championship. From 1984 to 1992, he represented Norway football (soccer) at the international level, but had to give it up due to injuries. He holds a master's degree in political science.

In 1985 *HiTech*, built by Carl Eberling under the supervision of Dr. Hans Berliner (1929-2017) at Carnegie Mellon University, achieved a performance rating of 2530. It was the first computer to have a rating over 2400. It won the Pennsylvania State Chess Championship twice (1988, 1989). Its custom hardware could analyzed 200,000 moves per second. In 1988, it was the first computer to beat a grandmaster (74-year-old Arnold Denker).

In 1986, at the Lugano Open, the game between GM Florin Gheorghiu of Romania and Daniel Sorm of Austria in the last round was originally scored as a double fault. It appeared that Gheorghiu had bribed his opponent to resign in return for a half share of his prize. A drawn game would give neither player any prize money. Sorm resigned in a drawn game. The appeal jury felt there was insufficient proof against the players and gave Gheorghiu the win. In the past Gheorghiu was accused of bribing other players such as Michael Basman and Leon Piasetski. (sources: *CHESS*, May 1986, pp. 58-59 and Basman, "Confessions of a Crooked Chess Master," *Kingpin*, Apr 29, 2015)

In 1986, Utut Adianto (1965- ) became the first Indonesian Grandmaster. He won the Jakarta Junior Chess Championship at age 12. In 1982, he won the Indonesian national chess championship. He is chairman of the Indonesian Chess Federation. In 2009, he was elected to the Indonesian Senate.

In 1986, Susan Polgar (1969- ) aged 17, narrowly missed qualifying for the Zonal, the first step in the "Men's world championship cycle. In November 1986, FIDE gave 100 bonus Elo rating points to all active female players except Susan Polgar. This knocked her from the top spot of women where she was the highest rated woman. In 1991, Susan became the first woman in chess history to earn the Grandmaster title through the conventional means by earning the required Elo rating of 2500 or above and playing well against other GMs. In 1986, Judit Polgar (1976- ), age 9, playing in her first rated chess tournament in the U.S. won the unrated section of the New York Open with a 7.5-.5 score. She won \$1,000. In December 1991, Judit Polgar was awarded the grandmaster title at 15 years, 4 months, 28 days.

In 1986, Cuban GM (1990) Walter Arencibia (1967- ) won the World Junior Chess Championship. He became the second Cuban, after Jose Capablanca, to hold a world chess crown. He won the Cuban chess championship in 1986 and 1990.

In November-December 1986, the 27<sup>th</sup> Chess Olympiad was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Israel was not allowed to participate. In protest, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and the Netherlands did not send a team. Korchnoi, Huebner, Lobron, Hort, Alburt, and Benjamin all stayed away. The budget for the event was \$3 million. Over 60 countries received subsidized or free flights to Dubai. 107 countries participated. The opening ceremony lasted nearly 3 hours. (source: *British Chess Magazine*, Jan 1987, pp. 4-12)

In April 1987, the second S.W.I.F.T super tournament was held in Brussels, Belgium. The tournament was sponsored and funded by the Belgian company S.W.I.F.T (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications). The average rating of the 12 players was 2580. It was the first time that the three Ks (Kasparov, Karpov, and Korchnoi) played in the same tournament at the same time. The Prime Minister of Belgium opened the event. The chief executive of SWIFT, millionaire Bessel Kok, set up the budget of 250,000 British pounds, with 9,000 British pounds for 1<sup>st</sup> place. At the time, it was the most richly endowed chess tournament ever. Three world champions played in the event – Tal, Karpov, and Kasparov. Nigel Short lost 6 games, including 5 games in a row. Kasparov and Ljubojevic tied for 1<sup>st</sup> place, followed by Karpov. (source: *CHESS*, May 1987, p. 1)

In July 1987, International Master Dr. Ricardo Calvo (1943-2002) was declared “persona non grata” (Latin “An unwelcome person”) by FIDE. He was condemned by FIDE by a vote of 72-1 for writing a controversial article in *New In Chess*. FIDE alleged it was a racial attack on Latin Americans and was critical of FIDE. He was censured but not banned from FIDE. In 1992, he was punched at Linares, Spain, by a Uruguayan chess writer offended at an article claiming a South American writer was “corrupting” young players. (source: “IM Dr Ricardo Calvo, 1943-2002,” *ChessBase Chess News*, Sep 26, 2002)

In 1987, Viswanatahn (“Vishy”) Anand (1969- ) won the World Junior Chess Championship. In 1988, he was awarded the GM title, the first from India. In 2000, he won the FIDE World Championship. He was the first Asian to win the title. He has won the World Chess Championship 5 times. In 2013, he lost the world championship to Magnus Carlsen.

In July 1988, the computer Hitech won the Pennsylvania chess championship. Hitech became the first machine to earn senior master status. It beat the No. 1 seed, International Master Edward W. Formanek, 5-time Pennsylvania chess champion. (1942- ) Formanek was a Penn State University math professor who had been playing chess for 28 years. Formanek was the first IM to lose to a computer. Hitech, created at Carnegie Mellon University, first played chess in May, 1985. (source: *Toledo Blade*, July 28, 1988)

On August 16, 1988, undercover police arrested an elderly chess player, Arkady Flom, at a park in New York City after he won a marked \$2 bill against a cop posing as a construction worker during a blitz game. He was arrested for gambling and charged with possession of gambling equipment (chess pieces and a chessboard). Flom was jailed for 3 days, his medication was confiscated, and he had a heart attack on the first night in custody. Flom was a Jew, a native of Kiev and earned a degree in veterinary medicine in 1955. The arrest was finally tossed out by a judge. Five years later, the city settled the wrongful arrest lawsuit out of court for \$100,000. He never collected on his lawsuit because he died before the case was settle out of court. His relatives receive, after legal fees, \$66,000. (sources: *Los Angeles Times*, June 9, 1991 and *Tartajubow on Chess*, Feb 6, 2016)

In December 1988, FIDE organized the first official World Active Chess Championship (30 minutes per game). It was a 61-player rapid chess tournament in Mazatlan, Mexico. The event was won by Anatoly Karpov (2715), winning \$40,000. The organizers of the event donated \$100,000 for AIDS research.

In 1989, Michael Adams (1971- ) of England was awarded the GM title. He has won the British chess championship 7 times. In 1986, he was the highest rated 13-year-old up to that time, with a rating of 2405. In 1989, he won the 76<sup>th</sup> British Championship at age 17, the youngest ever.

In 1989 Carol Hedwig Jarecki (née Fuse) (1935-2021) became the first woman to serve as chief arbiter for any world chess championship cycle match (Karpov-Hjartarson world championship quarterfinals in Seattle). She was an arbiter at world chess championships in New York in 1990 and 1995. Her son, John, briefly held the record as the youngest-ever chess master in U.S. history at the age of 12 in 1981. She did not play chess. She was a former anesthesiologist and avid aircraft pilot with over 4,200 flying hours (source: *New York Times*, June 14, 2021).

In May 1990, top Russian Grandmaster Artur Yusupov (1960- ) returned to his Moscow apartment after taking second equal prize at the SKA tournament in Munich. Hence he was carrying quite a lot of money on the homeward trip. Shortly after he had arrived home, armed thieves came to his apartment and proceeded to rob him of money and other valuables. Although Yusupov put up no resistance, one of the thieves panicked and discharged a shotgun into his stomach. For some time Yusupov was critically ill, but his energy levels were never quite the same after this traumatic experience, and he gradually fell back from his position as one of the top half-dozen players in the world. After the incident, he moved to Germany. In 2005, he won the German championship. (source: *Tartajubow on Chess*, Mar 12, 2020)

In 1991, Garry Kasparov was in possession of the diamond-studded (1,018 diamonds) Korloff trophy after defeating Karpov in the world championship match. Kasparov then sold the trophy to Kirsan Ilyumzhinov (1962- ) for 10 million Russian rubles (\$250,000). The trophy was sold through a bank and Kasparov used all the money for charity. All the money went to Armenian refugees from Baku. Ilyumzhinov was FIDE President from 1993 to 2010. (source: *New In Chess*, No. 3, 1988, p. 5)

In 1992, for the first time, a chess player appeared on a money bill. A drawing of GM Paul Keres (1916-1975) was placed on the front of the Estonian five Krooni banknote. This was a newly issued, fully convertible currency that was trading at 12 Krooni to one dollar. In 2016, the European Union allowed Estonia to design the 2 Euro coin. They again honored Keres by putting him on the coin. These are the only two instances where a chess player appears on world money. (source: *Inside Chess*, Aug 31, 1992, p. 16)

In June 1992, the 30<sup>th</sup> Chess Olympiad was held in Manila, Philippines. 102 teams from 100 different nations participated, including 117 GMs. The Russian team (Kasparov, Khalifman, Dolmatov, Dreev, Kramnik, and Vyzmanavin) took the gold, followed by Uzbekistan and Armenia. Garry Kasparov took the individual gold for board 1, scoring 8.5 out of 10. An all-German team played for the first time in 1939. It marked the first re-appearance of South Africa after the end of apartheid.

In 1992, Louis Taylor, an unemployed graphic artist, ignored a "No Board Games" order posted by his New Rochelle library and was handcuffed and got arrested. He brought in a chess board and was studying some chess positions. Taylor was charged with trespassing. (source: *Gainesville Sun*, Nov 3, 1992)



In 1993, Maurice Ashley (1966- ) became the first Black International Master. In the same year, he won the Marshall Chess Club Championship. In 1999, he became the first Black Grandmaster.

In 1993, Irina Krush, at the age of 9 (born Dec 24, 1983), beat a chess master, the youngest girl ever to beat a chess master in a rated game. In 1995, she played in the U.S. Women's chess championship at the age of 11. At age 12, she became a master. In 1998, at the age of 14, she won the U.S. Women's Championship to become the youngest U.S. women's champion ever. She has won the U.S. women's championship 8 times. In 2000, she was awarded the International Master title. (source: Chess Life, Dec 1993, p. 58)

On November 13, 1994, Soviet Ukrainian master Igor Vladimirovich Platonov (1934-1994), age 60, returned home to his apartment in Kiev after a chess tournament, when two thieves ambushed him and murdered him. The killers were never caught. In 1963, he won the Kiev chess championship. He attained the Soviet Grandmaster title with a peak rating of 2515, but FIDE never awarded him a title of GM or IM. He played in 5 USSR chess championships.

In 1995, Almira Skripchenko (1976- ) of Moldavia and France, was awarded the Woman Grandmaster (WGM) title. Her mother, Naira Agababean (1951) is also a WGM, perhaps the first mother-daughter WGMs. In 1998, Almira was awarded the International Master title. She has won the French Women's Chess Championship 7 times. At one time, Almira was married to GM Joel Lautier, and is now married to GM Laurent Fressinet. Almira is also a poker professional.

In 1995, Robert Smeltzer (1930-2010) of Dallas played 2,266 USCF-rated games in one year, the most ever. He played in 2,995 events from 1991 to 2010. He was subsequently featured on the June 1996 cover of *Chess Life* magazine.

In 1996, Alexander Baburin (1967- ) became the first and only Irish Grandmaster. He was born in Gorky, Russia and moved to Dublin, Ireland in 1993. In 2008, he won the Irish chess championship. He studied physics and engineering at Gorky University, and then attended the Gorky Institute of Foreign Languages.

In 1996, Italian IM Enrico Paoli (1908-2005) was awarded the honorary grandmaster title at the age of 88. He was awarded the International Master title in 1951. At age 60, he won the Italian championship. He was Italian champion in 1938, 1951, 1957, and 1968. In 1969, he missed receiving the GM title by only half a point at an

international tournament. He played his last official chess tournament at the age of 94. He died a month before his 98<sup>th</sup> birthday.

In 1996, world champion Garry Kasparov (1963- ) predicted that no computer would beat him in a match before 2010. He was off by 13 years. On May 11, 1997, IBM's Deep Blue beat Kasparov in a 6-game match. Kasparov said he lost his fighting spirit. During game 2, he resigned when he could have drawn the game. (source: *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, May 19, 1997, p. A-11)

In 1996, Swedish GM Ulf Andersson (1951- ) set a world record of playing 310 chess games simultaneously, winning 268, drawing 40, and losing 2 games in 15 hours and 23 minutes. This record stood until Andrew Martin broke it in 2004. He walked over 7 miles during the exhibition. He was awarded the GM title in 1972. He was awarded the ICCF GM title in 1995.

In January 1997, Jennifer Shahade (1980- ) became the youngest female US master at 15 years, 11 months. In 1998, Jennifer became the first and only female to win the U.S. Junior Open. She has won the US Women's Chess Championship twice.

In March 1997, Etienne Bacrot (1983 - ) earned the GM title at 14 years and 2 months, which at the time made him the youngest Grandmaster ever. He earned the FIDE master title at age 10, then the youngest to ever do so. He earned his IM title at age 12. He won the world youth championship twice (Under-10 world champion in 1993 and Under-12 world champion in 1995). He has won the French championship a record 7 times. In 2005, he became the first French player to enter the top 10 in the world.

In September-October 1998, the 33<sup>rd</sup> Chess Olympiad was held in Elista, Russia (Republic of Kalmykia). 110 teams from 106 nations participated with 171 GMs. Russia had 4 teams, which should not have been allowed by FIDE rules. The International Braille Chess Association provided one team. The Russian team (Svidler, Rublevsky, Bareev, Morozevich, Zvjaginsev, and Sakaev) took the gold, followed by the USA and Ukraine (on tiebreak over Israel). Denmark, Norway, and Slovakia did not play because of reported human rights abuses in Kalmykia.

In 1998, Nigerian International Master Odion Aikhoje (1971- ) won the Chess Olympiad individual gold medal as 2<sup>nd</sup> board (6 wins, 1 draw, 1 loss). However, he never received the gold medal, the first Nigerian chess player's medal at this level, due to a dispute over money between the chairman of the Nigerian Chess Federation

and the Nigerian Sports Ministry. In 2008, at the Chess Olympiad in Dresden, he was awarded a special prize in honor of the gold medal he once won. (source: Shabazz, "Odion Aikhoje to be honored in Dresden," *The Chess Drum*, Nov 16, 2008)

On March 22, 1999, Faneuil Adams, Jr. (1923-1999) died in New York of a brain tumor. From 1990 to his death in 1999, he was President of the American Chess Foundation (now known as the Chess-in-the-Schools) and a patron of chess for inner-city students. He was a former director and treasurer of the Manhattan Chess Club, a former member of the USCF Policy Board, and a former FIDE delegate. He was a former senior executive of Mobil Corporation for 28 years and a multi-millionaire. He was a direct descendent of Samuel Adams and a direct descendant of a brother of President John Adams. He won a Bronze Star for his service in World War II and the Korean War. (source: *New York Times*, Mar 25, 1999)

In March 1999, Maurice Ashley (1966- ) became the first black chess grandmaster, making his final norm at the 1999 Manhattan Chess Club March International. . He was born in Jamaica and came to the US when he was 12. Ashley coached the *Raging Rooks* of Harlem, and the *Dark Knights* (also from Harlem), both of which won national championships under his guidance. In 2016, he was inducted into the US Chess Hall of Fame.

In 2000, a set of stamps issued by Kyrgyzstan depicts Alexander Alekhine but with the wrong birth and death dates. Instead of 1892-1946, the stamps have 1876-1956. And what are those dates? They were the birth year and death year of his last wife, Grace Alekhine. They were also the dates that were wrongly put on Alexander Alekhine's tombstone in the Montparnasse Cemetery, Paris.

In 2001, Sergey Alexandrovich Karjakin (1990- ) became an International Master at the age of 11, winning the World Under-12 chess championship. He became a GM at the age of 12 years and 7 months. He was born in Ukraine but moved to Russia in 2009. In 2016, he was the World Championship Challenger. He drew the 12 game match in New York, scoring 6-6, only to lose the 4-game rapid tiebreaker by 3-1. His public approval of the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine prompted the Grand Chess Tour to ban him for future events. FIDE banned him from FIDE-rated events for 6 months and banned him from the 2022 Candidates Tournament.

On February 1, 2002, the Manhattan Chess Club closed. It existed for 124 years, having been founded in 1877. Its last president was Jeff Kossak. Leonid Yudasin was the last champion of the Manhattan Chess Club in 2021. The youngest Manhattan CC champion was Joel Benjamin at age 14 in 1978. Its last address was at the New Yorker Hotel, Suite 1521.

In 2003, Evgeny Agrest (1966- ) won a chess game from world champion Ruslan Ponomarev (1983- ) because Ruslan's cell phone rang during their game in the European team championship. A cell phone during a FIDE chess game was an automatic disqualification. In 2004, it was Agrest who lost a game during the Swedish championship when his cell phone rang.

In 2003, the first chess boxing competition took place in Berlin. That same year, the first world championship chess boxing fight was held in Amsterdam. The winner was Lepe Rubingh. In chess boxing, two combatants play alternating rounds of blitz chess and boxing until one wins by checkmate or knockout. It is also possible to win by time forfeit in chess, and by boxing decision if there is a drawn in the chess round. In August 2020, Russia introduced a new combined sport (like chess boxing) called the "Intellectual Biathlon." It consists of chess and marksmanship.

In 2003, Woman International Master Beatriz Marinello (1964- ) was the first and only female president of the United States Chess Federation (USCF). She was USCF president from 2003 to 2005. She was the Women's Champion of Chile when she was 16. From 2010 to 2018, he was vice president of FIDE.

On Feb 21, 2004, International Master Andrew Martin (1957- ) played 321 chess opponents at Wellington College, Berkshire, England. He won 294, drew 26, and lost 1 game, for a winning percentage of 95.64 percent. This record stood until 2005 when it was broken by GM Susan Polgar.

In 2004, Francisco Benko (1910-2010), at the age of 94, played in the 2004 Argentina Championship, finishing 91<sup>st</sup>. He participated in his first Argentine championship in 1937, finishing 20<sup>th</sup>. His record of chess competition spanned 67 years. Born in Berlin, in 1935, he was the first Jewish chess master in Berlin. In the spring of 1936, he moved to Argentina because of Nazi policy (his mother was Jewish). He died at the age of 99. Before he died, he was the world's oldest active chess player. His last official tournament was in 2008, when he was 98.

In 2005, Ahmed Adly (1987- ) became Egypt's first grandmaster. In 2001, he was African Under-20 chess champion. In 2007, he won the World Junior Championship, the first player from Africa to do so. In 2007 and 2009, he won the Egyptian championship. In 2003, he and two of his chess-playing friends played in a chess tournament in Nigeria. All three contracted malaria. Adly survived, but both of his friends died.

In September 2005, chess master Robert Michael Snyder (1954- ) was arrested in Fort Collins, Colorado on charges of molesting three chess students of his. Two boys were age 13 and one boy was age 12. He was convicted for multiple sexual assaults involving children dating back to 1983. He later escaped and was featured on *America's Most Wanted* on Nov 28, 2009. He was later captured in Belize in 2010 after someone recognized him from the TV show. He was released from jail in 2008 and was supposed to register as a sex offender, but he never did. He was featured on *America's Most Wanted* in November, 2009. A parent at an elementary school had recognized him as a chess teacher (he named himself Augustin Rios) in her school in Belize and notified the authorities. US Marshals tracked him down in Belize and arrested him. He was given a life sentence. Snyder said that he trained 36 national chess champions. (source: *Denver Post*, May 6, 2016)

On July 14, 2006, Latvian-Polish-American GM (1990) Aleksander Wojtkiewicz (1963-2006) died of a perforated intestine and massive bleeding in Baltimore, Maryland at the age of 43. A few weeks earlier, he tied for 1st at the World Open in Philadelphia. He became a Soviet master at the age of 15. In 1981, he won the Latvian championship. His chess career was interrupted when he refused to join the Soviet Army. He spent a year and a half in jail, then moved to Poland where he won 2 Polish championships (1989, 1995). In 1998, he moved to the U.S. and won the US Grand Prix 6 times in a row (1999-2004). In 2001, he won the US Open. He played chess in 48 states and 6 continents. (source: Shahade, "GM Aleksander Wojtkiewicz dies. Memories, Life and Games, *Chess Life Online*, July 14. 2006)

On February 10, 2007, a burglary of the hotel room of Azerbaijani Grandmaster Teimour Radjabov (1987- ) forced him to withdraw from the Morelia-Linares tournament. The burglary occurred in Patzcuaro, Mexico only a few days before the start of the tournament. Radjabov and his father left for a quick dinner and returned to their room within 30 minutes. All of their valuable items were stolen. They reported the crime, but got neither help from the local authorities, or even a police investigation. Radjabov earned his GM title at the age of 14. (source: "Teimour Radjabov withdraws from Morelia-Linares," *ChessBase Chess News*, Feb 16, 2007)

In 2008, Hou Yifan (1994- ) was awarded the Grandmaster title at the age of 14 years and 6 months, the youngest ever female to qualify for the GM title. She won the Women's World Championship 4 times. She was the youngest ever to win the Women's World Chess Championship (at age 16). At age 12, she became the youngest player ever to participate in the Women's World Championship.

In February 2009, a man killed a friend with a sword after a chess game in Alameda, California. An argument broke out during their game, and the two started wrestling. Joseph W. Groom, age 62, retreated to his bedroom and returned with a two-foot sword, which he used to stab Kelly Scott Kjersem, age 40, once. Kjersem later died. (sources: *Oakland Tribune*, Feb 5, 2009, and *San Jose Mercury News*, Feb 4, 2009)

On May 8, 2010, Hungarian-Soviet GM Andor (Andre) Arnoldovich Lilienthal (1911-2010) died at his home in Budapest 3 days after he turned 99. He was the last surviving member of the 27 original grandmasters. At the time of his death, he was the oldest GM in the world. He played against ten male and female world champions, beating Emanuel Lasker, José Raúl Capablanca, Alexander Alekhine, Max Euwe, Mikhail Botvinnik, Vasily Smyslov, and Vera Menchik. (source: Peto, "Hungarian chess grandmaster Lilienthal dies at 99," *Reuters*, May 10, 2010)

In 2011, Rybka (which means "little fish" in Slavic languages), the best chess-playing computer engine in the world, was disqualified and banned for the plagiarizing of two other chess engines, Crafty and Fruit, and so, failed to meet the International Computer Games Association (IGCA), originality requirements. Its author, International Master Vasik Rajlich (1971- ), was told to return all trophies and prize money back to the IGCA, which governs the World Computer Chess Championships. On June 29, 2011, after a 5-0 vote, Rybka was stripped of its titles, and Rajlich has now been banned for life in playing in computer chess championships. The ICGA disqualified and banned Rybka and its programmer, Rajlich, from previous and future World Computer Chess Championships. Rajlich has denied using other code, saying that Rybka is 100% original at the source code level. Further allegations have been made that Rajlich violated the Gnu Public License (GPL ) based on a decompilation effort by chess programmer Zach Wegner. The ICGA has demanded that Rajlich return the four replicas of the Shannon trophy (World Computer Championship Trophy) and prize money of the World Computer Chess Championships of 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010.

On July 28, 2012, at age 9, Awonder Liang (2003- ) became the youngest player ever to defeat a grandmaster (GM Larry Kaufman) in a standard time limit tournament game. The tournament was the Washington International in Rockville, Maryland. In 2011, he became the youngest chess expert in USCF history at the age of 8. In 2011, he became the youngest to defeat an International Master (IM Daniel Fernandez, rated 2448) in a standard tournament game, played at the US Open in Orlando. Liang was awarded the GM title at the age of 14.

On Aug 8, 2013, Russian GM (2003) Igor Kurnosov (1985-2013) died in his hometown of Chelyabinsk, Russia at the age of 28. He was hit by a car as he was crossing the street in Chelyabinsk and died at the scene of the accident. He was killed on the spot at 2:45 am. He was one of the top 20 GMs in Russia, rated 2680 at his peak. In 2009, he won at the Hastings Chess Congress. [sources: *Chessdom*, Aug 8, 2013 and *sports.ndtv.com*, Aug 9, 2013]

On August 14, 2014, Candidate Master Kurt Meier, 67, a Swiss-born member of the Seychelles chess team, died on the last day of the 41st Chess Olympiad, held in Tromsø, Norway. His son was playing on the board next to him and tried to revive him. Hours later, Alisher Anarkulov from Uzbekistan was found dead in his hotel room. China took the gold for the first time in a chess Olympiad. Hungary and India took the silver and bronze.

In April 2015, Yochanan Afek (1952) was awarded the TM title in chess compositions, only one of seven living holders. He is the only person to possess 5 different international titles. Besides his GM title for compositions, he is an International Master (IM), International Arbiter, FIDE master of problem solving, and international judge for chess compositions. In 2002, he won the Paris Open. He was a chess columnist in Israel, but now lives in the Netherlands. He earned a GM norm at age 50.

On September 16, 2015, the American biographical film *Pawn Sacrifice* was released in the United States, starring Tobey Maguire as Bobby Fischer, Liev Schreiber as Boris Spassky, Lily Rabe as Joan Fischer, and Peter Sarsgaard as William Lombardy. Lombardy (1937-2017) did not like the way he was portrayed and questioned much of the accuracy of the movie. For example, the movie shows Lombardy first meeting and becoming involved with Fischer way later than when he first met Fischer in 1954. Boris Spassky called the film “weak” and said that it has “no intrigue.” He noted that the film misrepresented him on how and why he agreed to continue the match after

Fischer failed to show up for the second game. The film had a budget of \$19 million, but only grossed \$5 million worldwide.

On Nov 26, 2016, GM Yuri Yeliseyev (1996-2016) died of his injuries at the age of 20 after falling from a balcony on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor of a Moscow apartment. He was a parkour enthusiast, which involves climbing or jumping up walls, across roofs, and over to other buildings. In 2012, he won the Under-16 section of the World Youth Chess Championship. He won the Moscow Chess Championship in 2015 and the Moscow Open in 2016. He was rated 2614. (source: The London *Guardian*, Nov 28, 2016)

On January 27, 2017, GM Hans Jack Berliner (1929-2017) died at his home in Riviera Beach, Florida. He was 87. In 1968, he won the Fifth World Correspondence Chess Championship with the record score of 14 out of 16. He was then awarded the ICCF Grandmaster title. He started out as a Naval Research Laboratory engineering psychologist. He started a PhD at age 40 and finished it at age 45. He was a Professor of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University. He directed the construction of the chess computer HiTech. (source: "Hans Berliner, Master Chess Player and Programmer, Dies at 87," *ACM.org*, Jan 18, 2017)

In 2018, Fabiano Caruana won the Candidates Tournament and became the first American since Bobby Fischer to compete in a unified World Chess Championship.

In July 2019, GM Jeffery Xiong (2000- ) became the youngest-ever American player to break through the elite Elo barrier of 2700. He earned the GM title in September 2014 at the age of 14. He won the under-20 World Championship at age 15. In 2016, he won the US Closed Junior Championship and the World Junior Chess Championship. In 2020, he took 2<sup>nd</sup> place (behind Wesley So) in the US chess championship. (source: *American Chess Magazine*, Oct 2019, pp. 22-27)

On August 11, 2019, chess master and teacher Shelby Lyman (1936-2019) died at the age of 82. In 1972, he hosted a live broadcast of the 1972 World Chess Championship between Robert Fischer and Boris Spassky for the PBS station Channel 13 in New York. It became a five-hour, move-by-move show. This broadcast became the highest-rated public TV program ever at that time. Lyman was paid nothing for the show that attracted millions of viewers. He wrote a chess column that was published in 82 newspapers around the world. Earlier, Lyman was a sociology lecturer at the City University of New York.



In January 2020, to discourage draws, a master chess tournament was held in Chennai, India, with a new rule of not allowing castling. Nearly 90% of the games were decisive. Vladimir Kramnik was the one that made the suggestion. The event was won by GM Raunak Sadhwani. (source, Shah, "The first ever No-Castling Chess Tournament results in 89% decisive games!," (source: *ChessBase News*, Jan 17, 2020)

In April 2021, Bulgarian Grandmaster Antoaneta (1979- ) became a Bulgarian Member of Parliament (MP) in the Takav Narod (There is Such a People) party. She was nominated as the party's candidate for the prime minister position. In 2002, she was awarded the GM title (there are only 8 other women with the GM title). In 2003, she was ranked #2 in the world for women chess players and rated 2442. She was Women's World Champion from 2004 to 2006. (source: *New in Chess*, #4, 2021, pp. 8-9)

In 2021, GM Levon Aronian (1982- ) announced his decision to transfer from the Armenian chess federation to the United States Chess Federation (USCF), citing a decline in government support for chess. In 1994, he won the World Youth Championship (under-12) in Szeged, Hungary. In 2000, he was awarded the GM title at the age of 17. In 2001, he moved to Berlin, Germany. In 2005 and 2017, he won the FIDE World Cup. He won the FIDE Grand Prix 2008-2010, qualifying him for the Candidates Tournament. In 2009, he was world champion in rapid chess. In 2010, he was world champion in blitz chess. His father was a Russian Jewish physicist, who lost his job after the fall of the Soviet Union. In 2017, he married Filipino-Australian Woman International Master Arianne Caoli. In March 2020, she died in a car crash. (source : *50 Moves*, Oct 2015, pp. 24-31)

In June 2021, Russian GM Ian Nepomniachtchi (1990- ) lost a key chess game to GM Wesley So during in online chess event while Nepomniachtchi was at home. His excuse for losing? A swarm of mosquitoes attack him. In April 2021, he won the Candidates tournament and the right to play world champion Magnus Carlsen in the World Chess Championship. In December 2021, he lost to Carlsen win no wins and 4 losses. (sources: *The London Guardian*, May 28, 2021 and *Chess Life*, Dec 21, p. 10 and 56)

On July 20, 2021, S. Odelia Jasmine of India set a Guinness World Record for the fastest time to arrange a chess set with one hand. She arranged a chess set on a chess board in 29.85 seconds. She practiced a year before attempting the world record. (sources: [www.guinnessworldrecords.com](http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com), Jul 20, 2021 and *Hindustan Times*, Jan 19, 2023)

On Nov 20, 2021, Dr. Jonathan Penrose (1933-2021) died at the age of 88. He won the British Chess Championship 10 times between 1958 and 1969, the most ever. In 1983, he was awarded the International Correspondence Chess Grandmaster title. In 1993, he was awarded the Grandmaster title. He won the British Boys (Under 18) championship at just 14 years of age. In 1949, he was London chess champion. In 1960, he defeated then-World Champion Mikhail Tal at the Leipzig 1960 Chess Olympiad. He was the first British player to beat a reigning world champion since Joseph Henry Blackburne defeat Emanuel Lasker in 1899. Penrose had a PhD in psychology. His brother, Roger, won the 2020 Nobel Prize in Physics.

On May 7, 2022, GM (1952) Yuri Lvovich Averbakh (1922-2022) died in Moscow three months after his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was the first centenarian chess grandmaster. At the time of his death, he was the world's oldest grandmaster. He was chairman of the USSR Chess Federation from 1973 to 1978. He is survived by a daughter who was married to Mark Taimanov for 10 years.

The 64 Club – those who died at age 64, the number of squares on a chess board. This includes Conel Hugh O'Donel Alexander, Vladimir Antoshin, Claud Bloodgood, Bobby Fischer, Krunoslav Hulak, Karl Marx, Edmar Mednis, Ivan Nemet, Albin Planinc, Vladimir Savon, Howard Staunton, William Steinitz, Octavio Troinescu, and Maximilian Ujtelky.